

Former North Carolina sheriff's deputy pleads guilty to racketeering and DIRECTV piracy. He faces 20 years in jail and \$250,000 fine.

The Associated Press
May 4, 2007

A former Robeson County, North Carolina sheriff's deputy pleaded guilty Thursday to racketeering in a case that has led to convictions of 15 former deputies.

Roger Hugh Taylor, of Lumberton, acknowledged in U.S. District Court that he stole satellite TV signals and improperly used federal drug forfeiture money while working as a deputy.

Prosecutors have said Taylor conspired from 1996 to 2004 with other current and former Robeson County sheriff's deputies to misappropriate money and commit satellite piracy. Taylor used a modified satellite TV card that allowed him to steal signals from DirecTV, investigators said.

Taylor faces a maximum of 20 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine and three years supervised release. He had agreed to assist investigators.

The investigation, dubbed "Operation Tarnished Badge," has led to 15 convictions of former Robeson County deputies. Charges ranged from conspiracy to distribute cocaine to conspiracy to commit kidnapping. More arrests are expected in the probe.

The crimes happened while Sheriff Glenn Maynor was in office. Citing health problems, Maynor resigned in December 2004 and has not been charged.