



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wahpeton Mail Carrier Charged with Stealing Mail

FARGO - United States Attorney Drew Wrigley announced that on April 23, 2008, **Allen Edward Prochnow**, 61, a Postal Service rural mail carrier from Wahpeton, North Dakota, was indicted by a federal grand jury for one count of delay and destruction of mail and one count of possession of stolen mail. **Prochnow** made his initial appearance and was arraigned today in United States District Court before United States Magistrate Judge Karen K. Klein. **Prochnow** pleaded not guilty to the Indictment.

The alleged incidents occurred in the District of North Dakota over a period of years ending April 3, 2008.

The statutory maximum sentence for each of the two charges is five years' imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000.

The case is being investigated by the United States Postal Service - Office of Inspector General.

Wrigley stressed that an indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.