



U. S. Department of Justice

George E. B. Holding

United States Attorney

Eastern District of North Carolina

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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FORMER POSTAL WORKER PLEADS TO DELAY AND OBSTRUCTION OF MAIL

RALEIGH - United States Attorney George E.B. Holding announced that in federal court today **STEVEN M. PADGETT**, pled guilty before United States District Judge James C. Dever, III.

On July 17, 2008, a Criminal Information was filed charging **PADGETT**, 58, of Raleigh, North Carolina, with delay or destruction of mail, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1703(a), which carries a penalty of up to five years in prison, a fine of up to \$250,000.00 or both, and three years of supervised release following his term of imprisonment.

PADGETT worked for the United States Postal Service from 1995 until 2008. He delivered mail to Route 32 in Apex, North Carolina, since 2001. When confronted by investigators on May 6, 2008, he admitted to accumulating undelivered mail at his home for the past five to six years. The Plea Agreement reflects a stipulation between the parties that the crime involved more than 250 victims.

United States Attorney Holding noted the importance of this case: *"This is one of the most egregious cases we have seen regarding the failure of a postal employee to perform his duties and to interfere with the proper delivery of the U.S. mail. But it*

is also important that we note it is an exception to the rule as we recognize the hard work and integrity of the vast majority of postal employees."

Larry Gleisner, Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Postal's Office of Inspector General stated, *"The overwhelming majority of postal employees work very conscientiously to move an average of 700 million pieces daily to its proper destination. It is a responsibility they take very seriously. Unfortunately, there are a few who abuse the public trust placed in them. It is the job of the Office of Inspector General to identify those employees."* According to Gleisner, the message is clear, *"If you throw away or steal mail entrusted to you, you throw away your career and you will be prosecuted."*

Investigation of the case was conducted by the United States Postal Services, Office of Inspector General. Assistant United States Attorney Josh Howard served as prosecutor for the government.

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This news release as well as photographs admitted into the public record at today's hearing will be available on the U. S. Attorney's web page at www.usdoj.gov/usao/nce within 48 hours of release.