

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

June 11, 2009

### **Heroin Bust on I-59 North of Fort Payne**

Sheriff Jimmy Harris states as follows:

On June 10, Inv. Mitchell Dendy was traveling southbound on Interstate 59 when he was passed by a 2009 Gray Chevrolet Traverse running in excess of 100mph. Inv. Dendy began following the vehicle as it traveled at approximately 115mph, and stopped the vehicle just north of Fort Payne. The vehicle, which had Maryland license plates, was occupied by three individuals and driven by Randy Demont Simmons, 29, of Upper Marlboro, Maryland. The three occupants were reportedly on their way from Maryland to Mississippi. Upon initiating the stop, Inv. Dendy found that Simmons was a federal parolee and had a suspended driver's license. Additional information led Inv. Dendy to contact Agent Craig White of the Drug Task Force, who arrived at the scene a short time later. After receiving consent to search the vehicle, officers found an amount of what appeared to be heroin. An additional Task Force unit was contacted, and upon arrival, tested the substance which was indeed found to be heroin.

Simmons was issued a traffic citation and was arrested, charged with Unlawful Possession of a Controlled Substance, and was transported to the DeKalb County Detention Center where he remains without bond. The other two individuals were free to continue their trip.

Simmons' federal parole officer was contacted, and he will be held until transport back to Maryland, where he will likely face probation violation charges. He has been out of prison for approximately seven months. He was reportedly serving time on federal auto theft charges.

This is only the second case involving heroin possession made in our county within the last five years. Sheriff Harris said, "It is really rare for us to see heroin in our area. It appears that this particular amount came out of Maryland and was headed to Mississippi. It was good that Inv. Dendy was in the right place at the right time – obviously we want to confiscate any type of drug, but the speed at which this individual was traveling was incredibly dangerous."

