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**FORMER ARMY PHARMACY SPECIALIST SENTENCED TO 18 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR
STEALING PRESCRIPTION DRUGS FROM WALTER REED HOSPITAL**

Stolen Somatropin Cost Federal Government More than \$4 Million

Greenbelt, Maryland – U.S. District Judge Paul W. Grimm sentenced Lamelle Marquez Malone, age 35, formerly of Columbia, Maryland, today to 18 months in prison, followed by three years of supervised release, for conspiring to steal prescription drugs from a military hospital and for interstate transportation of stolen property. Judge Grimm also entered an order requiring Malone to pay a money judgment of \$500,000 and restitution of \$2,113,483.51.

The sentence was announced by United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein; Special Agent in Charge Robert Craig of the Defense Criminal Investigative Service - Mid-Atlantic Field Office; and Acting Special Agent in Charge Glen A. McElravy of the U.S. Food & Drug Administration, Office of Criminal Investigations' Metro Washington Field Office.

“Lamelle Malone ran a business selling prescription drugs, but he obtained his products for free by stealing them from Walter Reed Medical Center,” said U.S. Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein. “Over a period of sixteen months, Mr. Malone and his co-conspirators stole more than \$2 million worth of Somatropin, a human growth hormone available only by prescription.”

Malone admitted that from April 8, 2011 through August 2012, he conspired with Roger Gurdon, and others to steal Somatropin, a form of human growth hormone, from the pharmacy located at the former Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, D.C. Malone and his co-conspirators re-sold the stolen pharmaceuticals for profit.

Gurdon was a pharmacy technician at Walter Reed. Between January 2008 and the fall of 2011, Gurdon stole Somatropin from Walter Reed and sold it to a co-conspirator. When Gurdon traveled out of the country in April 2011, he arranged for the co-conspirator to obtain Somatropin from Malone, who was an enlisted member of the Army and worked as a pharmacy specialist at Walter Reed. Malone distributed stolen Somatropin to the co-conspirator from April until August 2011, when Walter Reed was closed. Malone paid a pharmacy technician at Walter Reed to order the Somatropin which Malone stole, and paid the non-commissioned officer who was in charge of the pharmacy to ignore the fact that Malone was stealing Somatropin. Malone transported the stolen Somatropin from Walter Reed to his home in Columbia, and to College Park, Maryland to distribute the Somatropin to the co-conspirator.

During the period that Malone was involved in the conspiracy, the government contends that he and his co-conspirators stole over \$2 million worth of Somatropin from the Walter Reed pharmacy. Gurdon

admitted that the total loss to the United States over the course of the entire conspiracy was at least \$4,467,000.

Roger Gurdon, age 43, of Waldorf, Maryland, pleaded guilty to his role in the conspiracy and was sentenced to 78 months in prison, and was ordered to pay restitution of \$4,467,000. Another conspirator, Issa Wasco Koroma, age 63, of Springdale, Maryland was sentenced to five years in prison for conspiring to steal prescription drugs from two federal military hospitals.

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein praised the DCIS and FDA-OCI for their work in the investigation. Mr. Rosenstein thanked Assistant United States Attorney Mara Zusman Greenberg, who is prosecuting the case.