



Carteret County Sheriff's Office

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NEWS RELEASE

Major Cocaine Traffickers Arrested

Silver Dollar Road, Merrimon

On Wednesday afternoon approximately 20 members from local and federal law enforcement agencies executed search warrants on two residences located on Silver Dollar Road in the Merrimon community. The search warrants were served following an extensive investigation into the criminal drug dealing activities of suspects Frenchie Leapas Reels (top photo), 37 and Casey Deandre Murrell (bottom photo), 31.

Detectives conducted controlled purchases of large quantities of crack cocaine. During the search detectives seized 4 ounces of powder cocaine, 4 ounces of crack cocaine, 10 grams of marijuana, over \$20,000 in US currency, and numerous items of drug paraphernalia used to manufacture and package crack cocaine for sale.

The operation was coordinated by the Carteret County Sheriff's Office and assisted by members from Morehead City Police Department, Craven County Sheriff's Office, Jones County Sheriff's Office and United States Coast Guard Investigative Service (CGIS).

Reels and Murrell both have previous criminal histories for drug related offenses. Reels has served a previous federal prison sentence for drug trafficking and Murrell is currently on probation for conviction of drug charges in state court.

Frenchie Reels was charged with: 12 counts of Trafficking in Cocaine, 1 count Possession with Intent to Manufacture Sell and Deliver Marijuana, 3 counts Felony Maintaining a Dwelling, 2 counts Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and placed in the Carteret County Jail under a \$750,000 secured bond.

Casey Murrell was charged with: 2 counts of Trafficking in Cocaine, 1 count Felony Maintaining a Dwelling, 1 count Possession of Marijuana, 1 count of Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and placed in the Carteret County Jail under a \$100,000 secured bond.

