

Records detail charges against police officer

By Rachel Petersen
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On April 21, McAlester Police Officer Gregory Dillin Munholland, 25, of McAlester, pleaded not guilty to a charge of felony distribution of a controlled substance. According to the Pittsburg County Sheriff's daily inmate report and court documents, Munholland was arrested earlier that day and then released on his own recognizance by Pittsburg County Judge Donita Wynn.

Munholland is scheduled for a preliminary hearing conference May 13 at 9 a.m. He has been working as a police officer for the City of McAlester since June 16, 2008.

In a Friday afternoon interview with the McAlester News-Capital, McAlester Police Chief Jim Lyles said, "The department received a reported narcotics violation by an officer of the McAlester Police Department. The Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics was asked by me to investigate this report. The OBN investigated the allegation and turned a report in to District Attorney Farley Ward. At this time officer Munholland has been put on administrative leave with pay pending the outcome of court proceedings."

According to a report submitted to the Pittsburg County Court by OBN Agent Brad Balch, Munholland allegedly committed the crime in January of this year while he was working.

Munholland was working in the dispatch-area of the McAlester Police Department with another employee, dispatcher Michele Garrett, on the night of Jan. 21, according to Balch's report. "During the course of the evening, Garrett made a comment to Munholland about her foot hurting. A short time later, Garrett observed Munholland looking through his duffle bag. Munholland then handed a prescription pill to Garrett. When Garrett inquired about the pill, Munholland told her it was Lorcet. Garrett then attempted to return the pill to Munholland who would not accept it," Balch's report states.

Contact Rachel Petersen at rpetersen@mcalesternews.com.

For more on this story, see Wednesday's print edition of the *McAlester News-Capital*.