



Department of Justice

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Southern District of Mississippi

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THREE SENTENCED ON DRUG CHARGES

Jackson, Miss. - Joseph Patrick Coates, 21, of Pearl; Daniel Blake Huber, 29, of Jonesboro, Arkansas; and Charles Autry, 26, of Palestine, Arkansas, were sentenced on drug charges in federal court this week, U.S. Attorney John Dowdy announced. Coates was sentenced to serve 108 months in federal prison followed by 3 years of supervised for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methylenedioxymethamphetamine, also known as MDMA or Molly. Huber was sentenced to serve 41 months in federal prison followed by 3 years of supervised release for possession with intent to distribute methylenedioxymethamphetamine, also known as MDMA or Molly. Autry was sentenced to serve 37 months in federal prison followed by 3 years of supervised release for possession with intent to distribute methylenedioxymethamphetamine, also known as MDMA or Molly.

The final defendant in this case, Mark Frank Davis, 55, of Colorado, will be sentenced on March 30, 2012 by the Honorable Henry T. Wingate. He faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and up to a \$1,000,000 fine.

This case is the result of an extensive undercover operation, dubbed "Operation Brilliant Orange," which began as an operation targeting club drugs such as MDMA (Ecstasy), LSD, and high grade marijuana being distributed in the Jackson Metro area. Agents quickly identified a large trafficking network operating in Hinds, Madison, Rankin, Lafayette, and Forrest counties. This network was responsible for distributing large quantities of high grade marijuana, LSD, and "MOLLY," which is a pure crystalline form of MDMA. As this investigation progressed, agents identified a larger distribution network importing the illegal drugs from Amsterdam and distributing them throughout the United States. Agents were able to completely dismantle the entire network and stop this supply coming to Mississippi and across the United States. During the investigation, federal and state agents seized approximately 13 pounds of high grade marijuana, 122 dosage units of LSD, and 3.5 pounds of MDMA (MOLLY), with an estimated street value of approximately \$300,000. Also seized were nine firearms, two vehicles, and approximately \$35,000 in cash.

The lead investigative agency in this operation is the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics Jackson Enforcement Team (consisting of MBN, Jackson Police Department, Hinds County Sheriff's Office, Mississippi Department of Corrections). Assisting agencies include the Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Investigations, HIDTA, United States Attorney's Office Southern District of Mississippi, Madison Police Department, Lafayette Metro Narcotics Unit, Lafayette County Sheriff's Office, Rankin County Sheriff's Office, Rankin County District Attorney's Office, and Pearl River County Sheriff's Office.

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