



NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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JUNEAU MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN FEDERAL COURT TO DRUG TRAFFICKING

Co-conspirator Remains a Fugitive

Anchorage, Alaska – United States Attorney Karen L. Loeffler announced today that Tamafaiga Lancelot Maefau, a resident of Juneau, Alaska, pled guilty in federal court in Anchorage to conspiring to distribute cocaine and methamphetamine.

Maefau, 26, pled guilty to the one-count indictment before United States District Court Judge Timothy Burgess.

According to information presented to the court by Assistant United States Attorney Andrea (Aunnie) Steward, who is prosecuting the case, Maefau and his co-conspirator on several occasions flew to California from Juneau to buy drugs and then send back packages of drugs for distribution in Juneau. In furtherance of this conspiracy, the defendant and his co-conspirator flew to California and on February 13, 2008, shipped a package containing one kilogram of cocaine and 282 grams of methamphetamine back to Juneau.

Judge Burgess scheduled sentencing to take place on October 30, 2009. The law provides for a mandatory minimum five years in prison with a maximum of 40 years in prison, a fine of \$2 million, or both. Under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, the actual sentence imposed would be based upon the seriousness of the offense and prior criminal history, if any, of the defendant. The defendant remains incarcerated pending sentencing.

The defendant's co-conspirator who was also indicted for conspiracy to distribute cocaine and methamphetamine, Priscilla Finau, remains a fugitive. An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

Ms. Loeffler commended the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the Juneau Police Department for the investigation leading to the successful prosecution of Maefau.

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