



NEWS RELEASE

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**NORTH POLE COUPLE RECEIVE LONG SENTENCES IN FEDERAL PRISON
FOR CONVICTIONS OF METHAMPHETAMINE DISTRIBUTION CRIMES**

Anchorage, Alaska – United States Attorney Karen L. Loeffler announced that Robyn Ann Meece and Francis Patrick Peron, both residents of North Pole, Alaska, were sentenced in federal court in Fairbanks for their involvement in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. Meece was sentenced on May 15, 2009, to 188 months in prison for her conviction of possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute. Peron was sentenced on May 22, 2009, to 120 months in prison for his convictions of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine and maintaining a drug-involved premises.

United States District Court Judge Ralph R. Beistline imposed the sentences on Meece, age 49, and Peron, age 45.

According to information presented to the court by Special Assistant United States Attorney Kelly Cavanaugh, who prosecuted the cases, law enforcement officers searched two residences and vehicles that were used by Meece and Peron. In various places inside the residences and in the vehicles, law enforcement officers found in excess of 80 grams of pure methamphetamine. In addition to the methamphetamine, officers found other evidence indicating that the couple was selling methamphetamine. Both Meece and Peron have prior felony convictions involving the possession of methamphetamine.

Prior to imposing sentences on both individuals, Judge Beistline remarked that both individuals had significant addiction problems and he recommended they receive any type of treatment available to them while in prison. He also noted that distribution of methamphetamine is a crime that effects the entire community and he hoped that the sentences imposed would have a deterrent effect on the defendants' future actions and the actions of others in the community.

Ms. Loeffler commended the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Alaska State Troopers for the investigation leading to the successful prosecution of Meece and Peron. Meece and Peron were prosecuted under the Project Safe Neighborhood program, a nationwide commitment to reducing firearm and gang crime in America.

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