



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, June 24, 2009

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TUCSON MAN SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS IN PRISON FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING AND WEAPONS CHARGES

TUCSON, Ariz. – Rudyard Williams, 50, of Tucson, was sentenced yesterday by U.S. District Judge Raner C. Collins to 10 years imprisonment to be followed by four years of supervised release. Williams was found guilty by a federal jury on February 13 of possession with the intent to distribute 188 kilograms of marijuana and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking offense.

In May 2007, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents conducted a “knock and talk” at a house in south Tucson. No one answered the door, but at the same time as the agents were at the front door, they learned that individuals were running out of the back of the house. Williams was found across the street, hiding behind a washer/dryer. Inside the house, agents discovered bundles of marijuana, "packing material" and very little furniture. Agents also found a duffel bag containing a recently used plane ticket in Williams’ name and .45 caliber ammunition. In the same room, agents found ammunition suitable for an AK-47.

Outside the house, ICE agents found two duffel bags over the wall on the neighbor's property. Inside the duffel bags, they found two AK-47s and bales of marijuana wrapped and marked similarly to the marijuana found in the house. Five feet from the duffel bags, agents located a Ruger .45 caliber semi automatic pistol.

A total of 188 kilograms of marijuana was found in the house and in the duffel bags. The jury found Williams guilty of possession with intent to distribute marijuana, and carrying the .45 caliber Ruger in connection with a drug trafficking offense.

The investigation in this case was conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. The prosecution was handled by Michael D. LoGalbo and Robert A. Fellrath, Assistant U.S. Attorneys, District of Arizona, Tucson.

CASE NUMBER: CR-07-1009-TUC-RCC
RELEASE NUMBER: 2009-213(Williams)

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