



# Department of Justice

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Middle District of Florida

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## **THREE POLK COUNTY MEN SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON**

Tampa, FL - U.S. Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announces that U.S. District Judge Virginia M. Hernandez Covington today sentenced George Pizano, Jr. (27, Auburndale), Omero Penaloza (29, Auburndale), and Charles Harrison (34, Haines City) each to 20 years in federal prison for conspiring with each other and other persons to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine. The defendants pled guilty on December 16, 2011.

According to court documents, Pizano's drug trafficking organization sold methamphetamine to undercover agents on seven occasions between November 2009 and May 2010. On each occasion, an undercover agent negotiated with Pizano over the phone for the methamphetamine. The drugs were then delivered by either Harrison or Penaloza; except on one occasion (March 16, 2010) when Pizano himself made the delivery.

This case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration's Methamphetamine Task Force, which includes officers from the Polk County Sheriff's Office, the Pasco County Sheriff's Office, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, and the Lakeland Police Department, as part of an on-going Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces investigation. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Christopher Murray.