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News Release

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Last of 5 sentenced for distributing methamphetamine

The last of five defendants involved in distributing the highly addictive and dangerous drug methamphetamine was sentenced this week in federal court.

On Oct. 7 in Minneapolis, United States District Court Judge John Tunheim sentenced Jason Allen Jackson, 29, St. Paul, to 80 months in prison and five years supervised release on one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute in excess of 50 grams of methamphetamine. Jackson, along with the other four defendants, were indicted on Aug. 14, 2006, and Jackson pleaded guilty on May 10, 2007.

The other four defendants were sentenced on Feb. 27, each on one count of conspiracy. Jenne Christine Bright, 24, Yuba City, Calif., was sentenced to 30 months and five years supervised release; Brittany Jean Brooks, 21, Colusa, Calif., was sentenced to 48 months and five years supervised release; Christopher Benjamin Meyers, 31, Newport, was sentenced to 60 months and five years supervised release; and Joe Kim Stearns, 33, Yuba City, Calif., was sentenced to 96 months and five years supervised release.

According to their respective plea agreements, from May 2006 through July 2006 the five knowingly conspired with each other and others to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute in excess of 50 grams of methamphetamine.

According to a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) affidavit, on July 19, 2006, Bloomington Police attempted to stop a Honda Civic on a traffic violation on westbound Interstate 494 at Penn Avenue. The vehicle failed to stop and continued traveling for approximately one mile.

The vehicle, which contained two women and one man, eventually stopped. Bright and Stearns provided false names to the officers, and Brooks was observed digging in a duffel bag in the backseat. When Brooks was asked to exit the vehicle as a result of her behavior, Brooks denied digging in the bag.

During discussions with the officers, Stearns said he had a hypodermic needle in his pocket,

and based on that information, police conducted a canine-unit exterior search of the vehicle. The canine gave a positive indication for the presence of a controlled substance on the passenger side of the vehicle.

During a search of the vehicle, officers recovered a black bag containing .45-caliber ammunition and a plastic bag containing approximately 1 pound of methamphetamine. The three defendants were arrested.

At the police station, officers conducted a search of each defendant and recovered a loaded .45 -caliber handgun and approximately 10 grams of methamphetamine on Brooks. Inside Bright's purse, officers recovered a note containing driving directions to a hotel room in Duluth.

Duluth Police went to the hotel, and observed Jackson and Meyers exit the hotel and approach the parking lot. Officers approached both men and requested consent to search their person, luggage, room and vehicle. After executing consent forms, officers recovered approximately \$10,093 in cash and 1 ounce of methamphetamine from Jackson.

Officers also recovered a digital scale, commonly used to weigh controlled substance, from Jackson's luggage, and an additional ounce of methamphetamine from Jackson's vehicle. Police recovered a small amount of methamphetamine from Meyer's luggage, and a cellular telephone that matched the number that was calling the phone recovered from Bright's purse. In the hotel room, officers recovered packaging that was consistent with the material used to transport large quantities of controlled substances.

This case was the result of an investigation by the DEA and the police departments of Bloomington and Duluth, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Ann M. Anaya.