



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of Arkansas*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**EXTENSIVE COORDINATION OF LOCAL AND FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
DISMANTELS METH DISTRIBUTION NETWORK
AS 33 DEFENDANTS PLEAD GUILTY**

Little Rock - United States Attorney Bud Cummins announced today that thirty-three (33) defendants charged in a federal indictment have entered guilty pleas for their participation in an organization responsible for transporting methamphetamine from Arizona to Arkansas, Missouri and Texas, for distribution, and related offenses.

"Methamphetamine continues to be an awful problem across America," stated Cummins. "This has been an excellent piece of work by the agents, officers and prosecutors. The potential penalties signal the seriousness of these crimes."

According to the Indictment and proceedings in the case, from 2002 until July 22, 2005, investigators identified and dismantled a methamphetamine distribution organization responsible for the shipment of multiple pounds of methamphetamine transported from Arizona to the Eastern District of Arkansas and elsewhere for distribution on a monthly basis. This methamphetamine was routinely provided on credit by the suppliers to various distributors. Payment was due to the Arizona suppliers after the methamphetamine was sold.

Twenty five (25) individuals entered guilty pleas to conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine in this organization. In addition, sixteen (16) defendants pled guilty for their roles in conspiracy to launder drug proceeds generated by the methamphetamine sales. These defendants conducted financial transactions designed to transfer the proceeds from the sale of methamphetamine to pay the suppliers of the methamphetamine. Various means of conducting these financial transactions were utilized including wire transfers, the transfer of United States currency, and deposits in bank accounts to accomplish this goal.

In addition to the criminal charges, fifteen (15) defendants agreed to a criminal forfeiture of \$140,000 in drug-related money laundering proceeds realized in the money laundering scheme. The United States also secured a criminal forfeiture of fifteen (15) firearms seized in the case alleging that the weapons were used to facilitate the drug trafficking operation from fifteen (15) of the defendants included in their guilty pleas.

As part of their guilty pleas, defendants Jason Christopher Callicot, Larry Branum, Peggy Rodriguez, Timothy Ison, Mark Duane Lee and Jefferson Vanallen agreed to leadership sentencing enhancements for their roles in this operation.

Two (2) defendants in the case have been sentenced. Samantha Amy Munro received twenty-one (21) months to be served concurrent with an undischarged term she is serving in the Arkansas Department of Corrections with 1 year of supervised release for Misprision of a Felony. Shawn Luepkes received a sentence of 188 months with 4 years of supervised release for Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine. Sentencing for the remaining defendants in this matter will be scheduled by District Judge Wright in approximately 45 days.

This investigation is designated as an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) case. These convictions are the result of the joint investigative effort of the Drug Enforcement Administration; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation Division; the Little Rock, Arkansas Police Department; the Cammack Village Police Department; the Conway Drug Task Force; the Pulaski County Sheriff's Office; the Arkansas State Police; the 7TH Judicial District Drug Task Force; the Bootheel Drug Task Force, Cape Girardeau, Missouri; the Garland County Sheriff's Office; the Miller County Sheriff's Office; and the Bryant, Arkansas Police Department.

Senior Litigation Counsel Kevin Alexander presented this case for the United States.

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SUMMARY OF DEFENDANTS' GUILTY PLEAS and SUMMARY OF MAXIMUM CHARGES follow as attachments.

SUMMARY OF THE DEFENDANTS' PLEAS OF GUILTY

JASON CHRISTOPHER CALICOTT, a/k/a Kool Aid

Age: 32

Little Rock, Arkansas

Conspiracy to distribute more than 500 grams of methamphetamine;

Conspiracy to launder drug proceeds;

Criminal Forfeiture of drug proceeds and firearms.

JEFFERSON VAN ALLEN, a/k/a Jeff Van Allen, a/k/a Tiny

Age: 57

Queen Creek, Arizona

Conspiracy to distribute more than 500 grams of methamphetamine;

Conspiracy to launder drug proceeds;

Criminal Forfeiture of drug proceeds and firearms.

DAWN ELIZABETH ANZALONE

Age: 27

Conway, Arkansas

Conspiracy to distribute more than 500 grams of methamphetamine;

Criminal Forfeiture of drug proceeds.

TERRY GLEN BIRDWELL,

a/k/a Red

Age: 44

Texarkana, Texas

Conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of methamphetamine;

Criminal Forfeiture of firearms.

LARRY BRANUM,

a/k/a Uncle Larry

Age: 60

Queen Creek, Arizona

Conspiracy to distribute more than 500 grams of methamphetamine;

Conspiracy to launder drug proceeds;

Criminal Forfeiture of drug proceeds and firearms.

CYNTHIA LEA BROWN,

a/k/a Big Cindy

Age: 39

Jacksonville, Arkansas

Conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of methamphetamine;

Conspiracy to launder drug proceeds;

Criminal Forfeiture of drug proceeds and firearms.

CHRISTOPHER STEPHEN BRUCKS

Age: 32

Little Rock, Arkansas

Conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of methamphetamine;

Criminal Forfeiture of firearms.

CYNTHIA C. CALICOTT

Age: 37

Little Rock, Arkansas

Conspiracy to distribute more than 500 grams of methamphetamine;

Conspiracy to launder drug proceeds;

Criminal Forfeiture of drug proceeds and firearms.

KRISTY CASTELLI

Age: 36

Carruthersville, Missouri

Conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of methamphetamine;

Conspiracy to launder drug proceeds;

Criminal Forfeiture of drug proceeds and firearms.

MARK W. FERRELL

Age: 45

Little Rock, Arkansas

Misprision of a Felony

LUETTA FAYE GARNETT

Age: 41

Little Rock, Arkansas

Conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of methamphetamine;

Conspiracy to launder drug proceeds;

Criminal Forfeiture of drug proceeds and firearms.

PATRICK R. GENTRY

Age: 24

Little Rock, Arkansas

Conspiracy to distribute more than 500 grams of methamphetamine;

Conspiracy to launder drug proceeds;

Criminal Forfeiture of drug proceeds and firearms.

LEWIS AUSTIN GRAHAM

Age: 27

Little Rock, Arkansas

Conspiracy to distribute more than 500 grams of methamphetamine;

Conspiracy to launder drug proceeds;

Possession of a firearm during a drug trafficking offense;

Criminal Forfeiture of drug proceeds and firearms.

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U.S. Attorney's Office

09/20/2006

JERRY ALAN GRISSOM

Age: 42

Greenbrier, Arkansas

Conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of methamphetamine;

Criminal Forfeiture of firearms.

CYNTHIA NATASHA HAMMETT,

a/k/a Cynda

Age: 27

Little Rock, Arkansas

Conspiracy to launder drug proceeds;

Criminal Forfeiture of drug proceeds.

JOE EDWARD HAMMETT

Age: 37

Little Rock, Arkansas

Conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of methamphetamine;

Criminal Forfeiture of firearms.

CHUCKIE DON HARTWICK

Age: 35

Greenbrier, Arkansas

Conspiracy to launder drug proceeds;

Criminal Forfeiture of drug proceeds.

JAMES FREDERIC HOWARD

Age: 24

Little Rock, Arkansas

Conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of methamphetamine;

Criminal Forfeiture of firearms.

TIMOTHY MARK ISON

Age: 47

Little Rock, Arkansas

Conspiracy to distribute more than 500 grams of methamphetamine;

Conspiracy to launder drug proceeds;

Criminal Forfeiture of drug proceeds and firearms.

LAURA LEIGH JONES

Age: 30

Little Rock, Arkansas

Misprision of a Felony

KRYSTAL DAWN JOURNIGAN

Age: 21

Little Rock, Arkansas

Conspiracy to distribute more than 500 grams of methamphetamine;
Criminal Forfeiture of firearms.

SHAWN M. KING

Age: 40

Little Rock, Arkansas

Conspiracy to distribute more than 500 grams of methamphetamine;
Criminal Forfeiture of firearms.

MARK DUANE LEE

Age: 37

Greenbrier, Arkansas

Conspiracy to distribute more than 500 grams of methamphetamine;
Conspiracy to launder drug proceeds;
Criminal Forfeiture of drug proceeds and firearms.

HOLLY DANIELLE LONGORIA

Age: 22

Little Rock, Arkansas

Conspiracy to launder drug proceeds;
Criminal Forfeiture of drug proceeds and firearms.

JAMES SAMUEL MITCHELL

Age: 45

Texarkana, Arkansas

Conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of methamphetamine;
Use of a communication device to facilitate drug trafficking;
Criminal Forfeiture of firearms.

MEAGAN ELIZABETH MONTGOMERY

Age: 29

Little Rock, Arkansas

Conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of methamphetamine;
Criminal Forfeiture of firearms.

PAUL LEE OGLESBY

Age: 53

Paron, Arkansas

Possession of methamphetamine with the intent to distribute;
Use of a firearm during a drug trafficking crime;
Criminal Forfeiture of firearms.

FREDERICK W. ROBINSON

Age: 36

Conway, Arkansas

Conspiracy to distribute more than 500 grams of methamphetamine;

Criminal Forfeiture of firearms.

PEGGY LUCILLE RODRIGUEZ,

a/k/a Aunt Peggy

Age: 44

Queen Creek, Arizona

Conspiracy to launder drug proceeds;

Criminal Forfeiture of drug proceeds.

BURLIE WADE ROGERS

Age: 43

Greenbrier, Arkansas

Conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of methamphetamine;

Criminal Forfeiture of firearms.

SAMUEL BAXTER SANDERS

Age: 37

Little Rock, Arkansas

Conspiracy to distribute more than 500 grams of methamphetamine;

Conspiracy to launder drug proceeds;

Criminal Forfeiture of drug proceeds and firearms.

JEFFERSON VAN ALLEN,

a/k/a Jeff Van Allen,

a/k/a Tiny

Age: 57

Queen Creek, Arizona

Conspiracy to distribute more than 500 grams of methamphetamine;

Conspiracy to launder drug proceeds;

Criminal Forfeiture of drug proceeds and firearms.

SUMMARY OF MAXIMUM PENALTIES:

Conspiracy to Distribute more than 500 grams of Methamphetamine, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846, punishable by not less than 10 years imprisonment nor more than life imprisonment, and/or a fine of up to \$4MM.

Conspiracy to Distribute more than 50 grams of Methamphetamine, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846, punishable by not less than 5 years imprisonment nor more than 40 years imprisonment, and/or a fine of up to \$2MM.

Possession with the Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1), punishable by not more than 20 years imprisonment, and/or a fine of up to \$ 1MM

Use of Firearms During Drug Trafficking Crimes, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c), punishable by a mandatory 5 year term of imprisonment consecutive to any other sentence imposed.

Conspiracy to Launder Drug Proceeds, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(h), punishable by not more than 20 years imprisonment, and/or a fine of up to \$ 500K

Misprision of a Felony, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 4, punishable by not more than 3 years imprisonment, and/or a fine of up to \$ 250K

Use of a Communication Facility to Facilitate the distribution of Methamphetamine, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 843(b), punishable by not more than 4 years imprisonment, and/or a fine of up to \$ 250K