



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Arkansas

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COOPERATIVE EFFORT DISRUPTS LARGE SCALE DRUG ORGANIZATION

Little Rock, Arkansas--Tim Griffin, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, Jonesboro Police Chief Michael Yates and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Assistant Special Agent in Charge William J. Bryant, announced today that several individuals in the Jonesboro, Arkansas, and Ft. Worth, Texas areas have been arrested for their involvement in a large scale drug trafficking conspiracy involving the distribution of cocaine, crack cocaine, marijuana, and heroin. The following individuals are in custody:

Demetrius Rufus, 35, of Jonesboro, Arkansas;
Milton Jarmon, 50, of Fort Worth, Texas;
Nicholas Davis, 24, of Jonesboro, Arkansas;
Reginald Akins, 28, of Jonesboro, Arkansas;
Leo Brinkley, 31, of Jonesboro, Arkansas;
Catrina Rufus, 27, of Jonesboro, Arkansas;
Charles Sweat, 42, of Jonesboro, Arkansas;
Denise Thomas, 42, of Jonesboro, Arkansas;
Derrick Poole, 23, of Jonesboro, Arkansas; and
Christopher Hudson, 24, of Jonesboro, Arkansas.

Further arrests are anticipated. In addition, Demetrius Rufus is charged in a four count indictment with possession of \$122,600 in counterfeit U.S. currency. The case is assigned to the Honorable James M. Moody, United States District Judge, Eastern District of Arkansas.

“This large scale investigation demonstrates the effectiveness of law enforcement when federal, state, and local agencies work together to stop the distribution of life destroying drugs,” U.S. Attorney Tim Griffin said.

The success of this investigation is due to the cooperative efforts of DEA Little Rock District Office; Houston Office; Dallas, Fort Worth Office; the United States Marshals Service; United States Secret Service; and the Arkansas 2nd Judicial Drug Task Force comprised of the Craighead County

Sheriff's Office, Jonesboro Police Department and Arkansas State Police.

The statutory penalty for count one, conspiracy to distribute cocaine and crack cocaine is not less than 10 years to life imprisonment, \$4,000,000 fine or both and not more than 5 years supervised release. The statutory penalty for count two, conspiracy to distribute marijuana is not less than 5 years or more than 40 years imprisonment, \$2,000,000 fine or both and not more than 5 years supervised release. The statutory penalty for count three, conspiracy to distribute heroin is not less than 10 years or more than life imprisonment, \$4,000,000 fine or both and not more than 5 years supervised release. The statutory penalty for count four, uttering counterfeit obligations, is not more than 20 years imprisonment, \$250,000 fine or both and not more than 3 years supervised release.

An indictment is merely an accusation. The defendants have a right to a jury trial at which time it is the government's burden to prove their guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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News Release
U.S. Attorney's Office
02/12/2007

Page 2 of 2

