



## U.S. Department of Justice

### *United States Attorney Eastern District of Arkansas*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **CHARGES BROUGHT AGAINST FORMER DEPUTY PROSECUTOR**

**Little Rock** – Jane W. Duke, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, announced today the arrest of Timothy Gement Tucker, age 50, of Little Rock, Arkansas. Tucker was charged in a criminal Complaint with attempt to possess a listed chemical and use of a communication device to facilitate the attempted possession. Tucker made his initial appearance on the criminal Complaint before United States Magistrate Judge John F. Forster, Jr. this afternoon, at which time he was remanded to the custody of the United States Marshal pending further proceedings in the case.

According to the affidavit supporting the criminal Complaint, the Arkansas State Police (ASP) was contacted by the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, in Phoenix, Arizona. The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force in Phoenix, Arizona, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Phoenix office of the United States Postal Inspection Service are involved in a joint investigation. This investigation involves the investigation of subjects attempting to order precursor chemicals for clandestine drug laboratories and/or explosives over the Internet. The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office informed the ASP that on or about January 16, 2008, an individual logged onto a website and ordered 250 grams of Red Phosphorus and 100 grams of Ephedrine. The name Timothy Tucker and a billing and shipping address in Little Rock, Arkansas were given for the order. An investigation was begun in Little Rock which involved surveillance of the home and research on the persons identified to be living in the home. During the investigation, it was determined that Timothy Tucker lived at the residence and that at one time, he had been a deputy prosecutor for Cross County, Arkansas.

A search warrant was issued for the residence including all vehicles and out buildings located on the property. On February 8, 2008, a United States Postal Inspector delivered a

package purporting to contain the precursor chemicals. The package was attached to a “beeper” device to alert officers when the package was opened. Upon acceptance of the package, agents entered the home and conducted the search, finding evidence of methamphetamine production. Tucker was taken into custody.

Under federal law, defendants charged by complaint must be indicted by the next sitting federal grand jury or the Complaint is dismissed. It is therefore anticipated that Timothy Tucker’s case will be presented before the grand jury in the coming weeks.

If convicted, Tucker faces a statutory penalty of not more than 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

The investigation was conducted by the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office, in Phoenix, Arizona, the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force in Phoenix, Arizona, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Phoenix office of the United States Postal Inspection Service . The local investigation was conducted by the Little Rock office of the United States Postal Inspection Service, the Arkansas State Police, and the Little Rock Police Department. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Anne Gardner.

A complaint is only an allegation of wrongdoing based on probable cause. A defendant is presumed innocent until such time as he or she is adjudged guilty either by plea or jury verdict.

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