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News Release

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Wisconsin felon sentenced for possessing firearm and methamphetamine

MINNEAPOLIS – Earlier today in federal court, a 32-year-old felon from Amery, Wisconsin, was sentenced for possessing with intent to distribute methamphetamine and being a felon in possession of a firearm. United States District Court Judge John R. Tunheim sentenced John Philip Schanon to a total of 120 months in prison on the two charges.

Schanon was indicted on November 7, 2010, and pleaded guilty on April 5, 2011. In his plea agreement, Schanon admitted that on June 2, 2010, he possessed and sold a Romarm Draco pistol. In addition, Schanon admitted that between September 26 and October 17, 2010, he conspired with others to distribute 50 or more grams of methamphetamine.

Because he is a felon, Schanon is prohibited under federal law from possessing a firearm at any time. Schanon's prior felony convictions include homicide by negligent vehicle operation in St. Croix County, Wisconsin, in 2002, and fifth-degree possession of a controlled substance in Ramsey County in 2010.

This case was the result of an investigation by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives-Violent Crime Impact Team and the Minneapolis Police Department's Gang Enforcement Team. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Allen A. Slaughter.

Note, this case is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods, an initiative launched by the U.S. Justice Department in 2001 to promote a multi-jurisdictional, comprehensive approach to reducing gun crime in America. PSN provides resources to strengthen law enforcement and crime prevention partnerships that are working to make our streets and communities safer.

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