



*U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Southern District of Mississippi*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 5, 2012

FOUR INDIVIDUALS PLEAD GUILTY TO DRUG CHARGES

Jackson, Miss - Four individuals pled guilty in federal court this week to drug charges, U.S. Attorney John Dowdy and Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics Director Marshall Fisher announced:

Joseph Patrick Coates, 21, of Pearl, pled guilty on Wednesday, January 4, to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methylenedioxymethamphetamine, also known as MDMA or Molly. He is set for sentencing on March 21, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. before the Honorable Henry T. Wingate, and faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and up to a \$1,000,000 fine.

Daniel Blake Huber, 29, of Jonesboro, Arkansas, pled guilty on Wednesday, January 4, to possession with intent to distribute methylenedioxymethamphetamine, also known as MDMA or Molly. He is set for sentencing on March 21, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. before the Honorable Henry T. Wingate, and faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and up to a \$1,000,000 fine.

Mark Frank Davis, 55, of Colorado, pled guilty on Wednesday, January 4, to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methylenedioxymethamphetamine, also known as MDMA or Molly. He is set for sentencing on March 23, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. before the Honorable Henry T. Wingate, and faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and up to a \$1,000,000 fine.

Charles Michael Autry, 26, of Palestine, Arkansas, pled guilty on Wednesday, January 4, to possession with intent to distribute methylenedioxymethamphetamine, also known as MDMA or Molly. He is set for sentencing on March 23, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. before the Honorable Henry T. Wingate and faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and up to a \$1,000,000 fine.

This case is the result of an extensive undercover operation, dubbed "Operation Brilliant Orange", which began as an operation targeting club drugs such as MDMA (Ecstasy), LSD, and high grade marijuana being distributed in the Jackson Metro area. Agents quickly identified a large trafficking network operating in Hinds, Madison, Rankin, Lafayette, and Forrest counties. This network was responsible for distributing large quantities of high grade marijuana, LSD, and "MOLLY" which is a pure crystalline form of MDMA. As this investigation progressed, agents identified a larger distribution network importing the illegal drugs from Amsterdam and distributing them throughout the United States. Agents were able to completely dismantle the entire network and stop this supply coming to Mississippi and across the United States. During the investigation, federal and state agents seized approximately 13 lbs. of high grade marijuana, 122 dosage units of LSD, and 3.5 lbs. of MDMA (MOLLY), with an estimated street value of approximately \$300,000. Also seized were nine firearms, two vehicles, and approximately \$35,000 in cash.

The lead investigative agency in this operation is the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics Jackson Enforcement Team (consisting of MBN, Jackson Police Department, Hinds County Sheriff's Office, Mississippi Department of Corrections). Assisting agencies include the Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Investigations, HIDTA, United States Attorney's Office Southern District of Mississippi, Madison Police Department, Lafayette Metro Narcotics Unit, Lafayette County Sheriff's Office, Rankin County Sheriff's Office, Rankin County District Attorney's Office, and Pearl River County Sheriff's Office.

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