



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Robert Pitman
Western District of Texas

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SEVEN ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH MARIJUANA DISTRIBUTION OPERATION SPANNING MULTIPLE STATES

Seven individuals have been arrested this week in connection with a large-scale marijuana distribution conspiracy operating in Texas, California and Michigan announced United States Attorney Robert Pitman and Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agent in Charge Javier Pena.

A two-count federal grand jury indictment unsealed this week in San Antonio charges 48-year-old Virgil Marsh, 35-year-old Oscar Pettigrew, 28-year-old Esse Osameh Mazaheri, 35-year-old Gregory Hendricks and 36-year-old Brandon Sult of San Antonio, along with 29-year-old Clarence Henry Roberts of Fort Worth, Texas, and 46-year-old Todd Layton of Fort Meyers, Florida, with conspiracy to distribute more than 1,000 kilograms of marijuana since January 2009. The indictment also charges defendants Mazaheri and Pettigrew with one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering. The indictment alleges that during a one month period beginning in March 2011, Mazaheri conspired to conduct a financial transaction using marijuana distribution proceeds to purchase a 2011 Sun Tracker Fishing Barge pontoon boat and trailer for use in transporting marijuana to Detroit, Michigan.

During this investigation, authorities have seized approximately \$1 million in U.S. Currency, 800 marijuana plants, 760 pounds of marijuana and 9 firearms including one semi-automatic rifle.

Upon conviction of the drug conspiracy charge, the defendants face between ten years and life in federal prison. Also, Masaheri and Pettigrew each face up to 20 years in federal prison upon conviction of the money laundering conspiracy charge.

This case resulted from an investigation by the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) Strike Force Group in San Antonio and the San Antonio Police Department. The Strike Force Group is comprised of agents and investigators from the Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation, United States Marshals Service, Texas Department of Public Safety, Bexar County District Attorney's Office, Bexar County Sheriff's Office, Bexar County Constable Precinct 2, Medina County Sheriff's Office and the Seguin Police Department.

An indictment is merely a charge and should not be considered as evidence of guilt. The defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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