



# PRESS RELEASE

*OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA*

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**May 16, 2012  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **53 Indicted on Federal Drug and Gun Charges**

**CLARKSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA - A major undercover investigation into drug and gun trafficking in Fairmont has resulted in the indictment of 53 people by a federal grand jury. A large sweep occurred this morning during which agents spread out across North Central West Virginia to arrest many of those who were indicted last week during a special grand jury session held in Clarksburg. According to United States Attorney William J. Ihlenfeld, II; Paul J. Vido, Special Agent in Charge of the Louisville Field Division of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF); and Chief Kelley Moran of the Fairmont Police Department, the charges announced today were the culmination of nearly a year-long multi-agency investigation.**

**This investigation, known as "Operation Blue Haze," targeted street-level, mid-level and upper-level drug dealers and resulted in 33 federal indictments. Thus far, a total of 53 defendants have been charged in the Fairmont area on drug and firearms charges. As a result of these operations, law enforcement recovered 21 firearms and quantity of narcotics worth over \$100,000.**

**According to USA Ihlenfeld, "This is one of the largest investigations that has ever been undertaken in the Northern District of West Virginia," said U.S. Attorney Ihlenfeld. "I'm pleased to announce that some very dangerous people have been taken off the streets, including some career criminals who may spend the rest of their lives behind bars."**

**Investigating and reducing violent crime is ATF's #1 priority for making our communities and neighborhoods safe" stated Vido. "ATF continues to work together with our law enforcement and prosecutorial partners to put violent criminals behind bars, where they can no longer victimize our communities and our children."**

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**“When we all work together we can accomplish great things” stated Moran. “Today the streets of Fairmont are a lot safer.”**

**The names of those arrested thus far are:**

**ANDREA ARMENTROUT  
ANTWAN BEAFORE  
TYRONE BEAFORE  
TINA BELCASTRO  
LYNDSAY BIAFORE  
PAMELA BURNS  
SHAWN BURNS  
CHARLES CHANEY  
RONALD A. CHANEY, JR.  
KAREN COTTRILL  
ROBERT CRANER, JR.  
JOSHUA DEWITT  
DWAN EDWARDS  
STANLEY FLEMING  
DIANA FORD  
CHARLES K. GLASPELL-MCCOY  
LEONARD GUNTER a/k/a J  
KYRA HADDIX  
JENNA HANSLER  
MICHAEL HAWKINS  
LISA HERNANDEZ  
LAMAR JAMES  
DAMON JENNINGS  
MELISSA JONES  
OCTAVIUS JONES  
AARON KENNEDY  
JOHN R. MORRIS, SR.  
SHAQUR TAJE OTEY  
DESTINY S. SANDY  
DARIN L. SHACKELFORD  
JAKE SMITH  
JUSTIN WILLIAMS  
RICHARD WILLIAMS  
RUTH WYATT  
WHITNEY YERACE**

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**The above individuals appeared today before Magistrate Judge John S. Kaull for their initial appearances.**

**Arraignments are scheduled for May 22, 2012, and any detention hearings are scheduled for May 21, 2012.**

**The names of others who are still wanted are:**

**MICHELE COFFMAN  
JOSEPH HEARN  
CARLOS PAGAN  
RONALD DEVON SMITH  
AARON HIGGINS**

**The following individuals are in custody on unrelated charges: JUSTIN M. BATSON, CARL WAITES, MICHAEL FARLEY and ERIC SMITH.**

**Please see the attached Defendant Data Sheets for specific charges on each defendant.**

**In the event of a conviction, and depending on drug quantity and criminal history, the maximum potential penalty could be life in prison without parole. Some of the charges carry a minimum mandatory sentence of at least five years in prison and some carry a mandatory minimum sentence of at least 10 years in prison.**

**The cases are primarily being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Zelda E. Wesley and Shawn A. Morgan.**

**It should be noted that the charges contained in the Indictment are merely accusations and not evidence of guilt, and that each defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.**

**-END-**