

*United States District Court
District of New Jersey*

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : HON. MICHAEL A. HAMMER
v. : **CRIMINAL COMPLAINT**
RYAN BONTEMPI : Magistrate No. 14-4038
a/k/a "Rooster," and : Filed Under Seal
HOWARD TAYLOR :
:

I, Michael Mintchwarner, the undersigned complainant being duly sworn, state the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief:

SEE ATTACHMENT A

I further state that I am a Task Force Officer with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and that this complaint is based on the following facts:

SEE ATTACHMENT B

Continued on the attached page and made a part hereof.

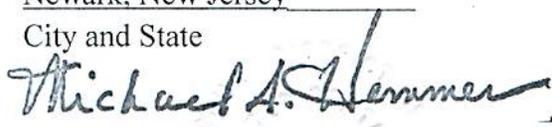


Michael Mintchwarner
Task Force Officer
U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence,

May 9, 2014 at
Date

Honorable Michael A. Hammer
United States Magistrate Judge

Newark, New Jersey
City and State


Signature of Judicial Officer

ATTACHMENT A

From in and around July 2013 through in and around March 2014, in Hudson County, in the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, defendants

RYAN BONTEMPI
a/k/a "Rooster," and

HOWARD TAYLOR

did knowingly and intentionally conspire and agree with others to distribute and possess with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine, a Schedule II controlled substance, contrary to Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and (b)(1)(A), and

In violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846.

ATTACHMENT B

I, Michael Mintchwarner, am a Task Force Officer with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA"). I am familiar with the facts set forth herein through my personal participation in the investigation and through oral and/or written reports from other federal agents and law enforcement officers. Where statements of others are related herein, they are related in substance and part. Since this complaint is being submitted for a limited purpose, I have not set forth each and every fact that I know concerning this investigation. Where I assert that an event took place on a particular date and time, I am asserting that it took place on or about the date and time alleged.

I. Overview

1. Between in or around July 2013 thru in or around March 2014, law enforcement was involved in an investigation into a drug trafficking organization (DTO) operating in and around Jersey City, New Jersey.

2. The DTO functioned, in part, by utilizing individuals operating in Arizona and elsewhere to coordinate shipments of parcels containing large quantities of methamphetamine through the U.S. mails to locations in Northern New Jersey. More specifically, suppliers who packaged the methamphetamine in Arizona and elsewhere concealed the methamphetamine inside parcels, and shipped the parcels to addresses provided by New Jersey-based co-conspirators. Individuals in New Jersey would coordinate these shipments, repackage the methamphetamine upon receipt of the parcels, and distribute the methamphetamine to customers in and around New Jersey.

3. As the investigation progressed through, among other things, the use of confidential sources, physical surveillance and judicially-authorized electronic surveillance, law enforcement in New Jersey identified: Defendants RYAN BONTEMPI a/k/a "Rooster" (hereinafter "BONTEMPI"), and HOWARD TAYLOR (hereinafter "TAYLOR") as Phoenix, Arizona-based suppliers of methamphetamine to the DTO.

4. On or about August 8, 2013, law enforcement was advised by a New Jersey-based member of the conspiracy (co-conspirator #1) that an individual named "Gordo" had traveled from Arizona to New Jersey in order to collect money owed to BONTEMPI for shipments of methamphetamine. Thereafter, a separate New Jersey-based member of the conspiracy (co-conspirator #2) advised law enforcement that Gordo supervised the receipt of a parcel containing approximately one pound of methamphetamine sent by BONTEMPI to New Jersey via the U.S. postal service, and had threatened and assaulted another co-conspirator who attempted to intercept that shipment.

II. Intercepted Parcels and Controlled Purchases of Methamphetamine

5. On or about September 21, 2013, TAYLOR was captured on video surveillance mailing two parcels from Phoenix, Arizona to locations in New Jersey. Both parcels were subsequently seized by law enforcement and found to contain approximately 230 grams and 475 grams, respectively, of methamphetamine concealed therein.

6. On or about December 13, 2013, a confidential source working at the direction of law enforcement ("CS-2") placed a consensually monitored telephone call to BONTEMPI, wherein BONTEMPI agreed to send one ounce of crystal methamphetamine to CS-2 after BONTEMPI received an initial payment of \$1100 which was to be deposited into a bank account registered to BONTEMPI. On or about December 19, 2013, CS-2 deposited \$1100 into BONTEMPI's account as instructed. Thereafter, on or about December 20, 2013, TAYLOR was observed, via video surveillance, mailing a parcel to the New Jersey address CS-2 provided to BONTEMPI. BONTEMPI provided CS-2 with the U.S. Postal Service tracking number for the parcel, which law enforcement subsequently seized, searched and discovered approximately 60 grams of methamphetamine concealed inside a voltage converter enclosed therein.

7. Following the December 13, 2013 shipment of methamphetamine, BONTEMPI again conferred with CS-2 and directed CS-2 to deposit the balance of the money owed for the methamphetamine into a separate bank account registered to BONTEMPI. On or about January 8, 2014, CS-2 deposited approximately \$1500 into the account, which represented the balance owed to BONTEMPI.

8. On or about January 24, 2014, law enforcement observed TAYLOR arriving at BONTEMPI's residence in Phoenix, Arizona, and shortly thereafter departing with a parcel, which he subsequently mailed, while under video surveillance. Law enforcement seized the parcel, which was addressed to a recipient in Monmouth Junction, New Jersey, and conducted a lawful search of the contents. Law enforcement discovered approximately 96 grams of methamphetamine concealed therein.