
NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney
Laura E. Duffy***

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Immediate Release

Almost Four Dozen Suspected Meth and Heroin Traffickers Indicted; Officials Make Arrests in North County Sweep

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY – April 17, 2013

Eighteen suspected methamphetamine and heroin traffickers were arrested during pre-dawn raids around the North County today.

More than 200 agents and detectives from the multi-agency North County Regional Gang Task Force made the arrests in Oceanside, Vista, Escondido and elsewhere in the North County. Task force members confiscated 35 weapons during the course of the investigation. Among the weapons seized were hand guns, semi-automatic rifles and shotguns, including a 12-gauge Street Sweeper semiautomatic.

These arrests are associated with the unsealing of 15 grand jury indictments today charging 46 defendants with various narcotics trafficking crimes, including conspiracy plus importation, distribution and possession of methamphetamine. A few defendants were charged with heroin trafficking.

“The number and types of weapons seized in this investigation are troubling,” said U.S. Attorney Laura Duffy. “We will continue to target these well-armed drug traffickers who operate in our neighborhoods and put all of us at risk – especially our children.”

The North County Regional Gang Task Force is a multi-agency group including the FBI, ATF, the San Diego County Sheriff’s Department, Homeland Security Investigations and police departments in Oceanside and Carlsbad, with assistance from other federal and local law enforcement agencies as well.

Daphne Hearn, FBI Special Agent in Charge, said: “Today’s arrests by the North County Regional Gang Task Force are the result of a long-term multi-agency investigation by federal, state and local law enforcement agencies working together. The FBI will continue to work with our law enforcement partners to make our communities a safer place.”

“It is only by the extremely hard work, commitment, and passion from the collaborative North County Gang Task Force that made Operation Corridor such a tremendous success,” said Oceanside police Chief Frank S. McCoy. “This operation is a great example of local and federal law enforcement agencies from all over San Diego joining together to combat drug traffickers in our community who threaten the safety and security of our citizens.”

“ATF considers the North County Gang Task Force a critical partner in its long-term mission of combating violent crime and removing criminals from our communities as was shown in Operation Corridor,” said Steven J. Bogdalek, Special Agent in Charge ATF Los Angeles Field Division. “ATF will continue to dedicate federal resources and work with our local agencies in the pursuit of eradicating illegal firearm trafficking and criminal activity.”

“Operation Corridor exemplifies the good work done by multiple agencies in San Diego County,” said San Diego County Sheriff Bill Gore. “This is a multi-faceted approach to reducing violent crime, and those who perpetrate it. This investigation is a prime example of how effective Intelligence Led Policing can be with respect to targeting prolific, criminal offenders and managing law enforcement resources. Operation Corridor has been extremely effective in restoring quality of life to our residents in the North County along the 78 corridor.”

“I commend all of the law enforcement professionals in the San Diego area who worked tirelessly in this coordinated effort to combat the threats that violence and fear tactics pose to public safety in our communities,” said Derek Benner, special agent in charge for Homeland Security Investigations San Diego.

DEFENDANTS

Case Number: 13cr1128-BEN

LAURA CRUZ	Already in custody
RAUL ALVARADO	Already in custody
ROBERT RODRIGUEZ	Already in custody
CARRIE BROWN-RODRIGUEZ	Arrested 4/15/13
ANTHONY PALAFOX	Arrested 4/17/13
JESSICA HOLGUIN	Arrested 4/17/13
ROBERT AGUILAR	At Large
CHRISTIAN GARDUNO	Already in custody
ERICK GARCIA-MARTINEZ	At Large
JOSHUA SANCHEZ	Arrested 4/17/13
TRAVIS JOB	Arrested 4/17/13
BRIAN RAMIREZ	Arrested 4/17/13
ANDY ESPINOZA	Arrested 4/17/13
LORI STORY	Arrested 4/17/13
ANGEL OLMOS	At Large
BRAD WOOLARD	Arrested 4/17/13
JOSE ANTONIO	Already in custody
EMILY BAKER	At Large
MONORIN PHIAKEO	Arrested 4/17/13
JESSICA KISNER	At Large
HECTOR MEDRANO	Arrested 4/17/13
FRANKIE KING	Arrested 4/17/13

Summary of Charges

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 846 - Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine;
Title 21, United States Code, Sections 952, 960 (b) (1) (H) and 963 – Conspiracy to Import
Methamphetamine; Title 21, United States Code, Section 841 (a) (1) – Possession of Methamphetamine
with Intent to Distribute

Case Number: 13cr1238BEN

LYDIA LUCIO	Arrested 4/17/13
DAVID GAMEZ	Arrested 4/17/13
ANA ALVIZOVITAL	Already in Custody
ERROL WHITE	Arrested 4/17/13

RUDOLPH FIGUEROA

Arrested 4/17/13

Summary of Charges

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 952, 960 (b) (2) (A) - Conspiracy to Import Heroin; Title 21, United States Code Sections 952, 960 and 963 – Conspiracy to Import Heroin

Case Number: 1232BEN

ALEXANDRA AGUIRRE

Arrested 4/17/13

Summary of Charges

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 952, 960 – Importation of Heroin

Case Number: 13cr1239MMA

THOMAS MEDINA

Arrested 4/17/13

PABLO DIAZ

Arrested 4/17/13

Summary of Charges

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 846 - Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine; Title 21, United States Code, Section 841 (a) (1) – Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute

Case Number: 13cr1237L

STEVEN HERNANDEZ

Arrested 4/17/13

JUAN URIBE

Already in Custody

Summary of Charges

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 846 - Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine; Title 21, United States Code, Section 841 (a) (1) – Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute

Case Number: 13cr1243BEN

ROBERT SARMIENTO

Arrested 4/17/13

Summary of Charges

Title 21, United States Code, Section 841 (a) (1) – Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute; Title 18, United States Code, Section 922 (g) (1) - Felon in possession of a firearm

Case Number: 13cr1242AJB

CARLOS RIVERA

Arrested 4/17/13

Summary of Charges

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 846 - Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine; Title 18, United States Code, Section 922 (g) (1) - Felon in possession of a firearm

Case Number: 13cr1241BEN

STEVEN NORTH
ROBERT AGUILAR

Arrested 4/17/13
At Large

Summary of Charges

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and (b)(1)(B) - Distribution of Methamphetamine; Title 18, United States Code, Section 922 (g) (1) - Felon in possession of a firearm

Case Number: 13cr1231JAH

JAVIER ALVAREZ

Already in custody

Summary of Charges

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) - Distribution of Methamphetamine

Case Number: 13cr1244W

PAUL WOODS

At Large

Summary of Charges

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) - Distribution of Methamphetamine

Case Number: 13cr1233BEN

ARMANDO ARELLANO

Already in Custody

Summary of Charges

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) - Distribution of Methamphetamine

Case Number: 13cr1234WQH

RUDY BLANCO

Arrested 4/17/13

AMANDA KOPP

Arrested 4/17/13

Summary of Charges

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 846 - Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine;
Title 21, United States Code, Section 841 (a) (1) and (b) (1) (B) (viii) – Distribution of Methamphetamine

Case Number: 13cr1240L

GEORGE MOLINA

Already in Custody

ULYSSES RAMOS

Already in Custody

Summary of Charges

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 846 - Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine;
Title 21, United States Code, Section 841 (a) (1) and (b) (1) (B) (viii) – Possession of Methamphetamine
with intent to distribute

Case Number: 13cr1235JAH

ROUANNE DIAZ

Arrested 4/17/13

DEANDRA COX

Already in custody

Summary of Charges

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 846 - Conspiracy to Distribute Methamphetamine;
Title 21, United States Code, Section 841 (a) (1) and (b) (1) (B) (viii) – Distribution of Methamphetamine

Case Number: 13cr1236GPC

ADAM ESPINO

Arrested 4/17/13

Summary of Charges

Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a) (1) - Distribution of Methamphetamine

AGENCIES

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Oceanside Police Department
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
San Diego County Sheriff's Department
Homeland Security Investigations
Carlsbad Police Department

An indictment or complaint itself is not evidence that the defendants committed the crimes charged. The defendants are presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

