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**ORGANIZED CRIME DRUG ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE (OCDETF)
INVESTIGATION CODE NAMED "OPERATION GREEN SNOW" NETS 14 CONVICTIONS**

Ring operated from Mexico to the Eastern United States

LAKE CHARLES, La. - Two remaining defendants in a major drug trafficking organization have been convicted by a federal jury in Lake Charles, Louisiana on firearms and drug trafficking charges, United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced. Roberto Zamora was found guilty for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine and other controlled substances and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. Fletcher Freeman, Jr. was found guilty for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine and other controlled substances and possession with intent to distribute cocaine.

Roberto Zamora, Fletcher Freeman, Jr., and sixteen others were previously indicted on drug trafficking and firearms charges. Evidence at trial revealed that Zamora and Freeman were part of a cocaine and marijuana distribution enterprise that stretched from Mexico to Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina, and drug loads destined for delivery to these locations passed through the Western District of Louisiana. The drugs were transported in motor vehicles by various couriers, and were concealed in batteries modified with hidden compartments, air filter compartments, rocker panels, and other locations within the motor

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vehicles. Altogether, the organization was responsible for the distribution of approximately 200 kilograms of cocaine.

Twelve of Zamora's and Freeman's co-defendants have previously pled guilty, have been sentenced, and/or are awaiting sentencing. Four remain at large, and are fugitives.

U. S. Attorney Donald W. Washington stated: "Drug traffickers will be held accountable and seriously dealt with by this office and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. These convictions are a result of an investigation made possible by combining resources at the federal, state, and local level. We will continue to work closely with our law enforcement counterparts to pursue and dismantle drug trafficking organizations."

At sentencing, both defendants face up to life imprisonment. **Sentencing has been scheduled for February 11, 2010.**

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statutes. United States Sentencing Guidelines established by the United States Congress and the United States Sentencing Commission are only used as guidelines by the judge in determining the appropriate sentence. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

The investigation, code-named "Operation Green Snow," was conducted by the Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF), a joint, multi-agency group consisting of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, including the Drug Enforcement Administration, Lafayette, Louisiana, Iberia Parish Sheriff's Office, Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office, Lafayette Police Department, Vermilion Parish Sheriff's Office, St. Mary Parish Sheriff's Office, Acadia Parish Sheriff's Office, St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office, Opelousas Police Department and the Louisiana National Guard.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Brett L. Grayson.

(See Attached Fact Sheet)

FACT SHEET:

FRANCISCO GERARDO CHAPA-DURAN, a/k/a “Pancho” is still at large.

MIGUEL ANGEL PUENTE, pled guilty on January 4, 2008 to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine, marijuana, ecstasy and other controlled substances, and is awaiting sentencing.

KARLA YVONNE PUENTE-CUELLAR is still at large.

JUSTIN MICHAEL GREEN pled guilty on October 31, 2008 to possession with intent to distribute over 500 grams of cocaine, and was sentenced on February 26, 2009 to 51 months imprisonment, followed by four years supervised release.

JESSICA AGUIRRE pled guilty on November 30, 2007 to possession with intent to distribute 500 grams or more of a mixture or substance containing cocaine, and is awaiting sentencing.

TIFFANY JOY PENA pled guilty on January 17, 2008 to importation of 500 grams or more of a mixture or substance containing cocaine, and is awaiting sentencing.

JULIO CESAR CORTEZ pled guilty on October 21, 2009 to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine, marijuana, ecstasy, and other controlled substances, and is awaiting sentencing.

JOSE LUIS GUTIERREZ-BOSQUES pled guilty on October 29, 2009 to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine, marijuana, ecstasy, and other controlled substances, and is awaiting sentencing.

FIDENCIO OZIEL PEREZ is still at large.

ISRAEL ROMERO BAUTISTA pled guilty on October 31, 2008 to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine, marijuana, ecstasy, and other controlled substances, and was sentenced on April 2, 2009 to 70 months imprisonment, followed by four years supervised release.

TOMAS SILVA pled guilty on February 25, 2008 to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine, marijuana, ecstasy, and other controlled substances, and was sentenced on June 4, 2009 to 20 years imprisonment, followed by 10 years supervised release.

ROBERTO EDUARDO MENDOZA pled guilty on October 30, 2009 to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine, marijuana, ecstasy, and other controlled substances, and is awaiting sentencing.

LARRY GONZALEZ pled guilty on October 23, 2008 to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine, marijuana, ecstasy, and other controlled substances, and is awaiting sentencing.

LEOBARDO ZAMORA is still at large.

RAFAEL MOLINA-GARZA pled guilty on August 14, 2007 to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine, marijuana, ecstasy, and other controlled substances, and was sentenced on December 7, 2007 to 54 months imprisonment, followed by three years supervised release.

BRUCE STINSON pled guilty on November 3, 2009 to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine and other controlled substances, and is awaiting sentencing.