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News Release

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28 indicted for distributing methamphetamine in Duluth

Twenty-eight people have been indicted in federal court in connection with possessing and distributing the highly addictive and dangerous drug methamphetamine for the past three years in Duluth.

They were indicted on Aug. 20, and the indictment was unsealed Oct. 7 following the arrest of 21 of the defendants. These defendants reside in either the Twin Cities or in the Duluth area. The 21 made their initial appearances Oct. 8 at the United States Courthouse in St. Paul.

Charged with one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine are: Kevin Mark Anderson, 27, Big Lake; Sandra Marie Archambeau, 35, Duluth; Beatrix Elena Arellanes, 34, Minneapolis; Alana Lynn Brown, 23, Duluth; Joshua Edward Cameron, 31, Maple Grove; Robert Gene Chapman, 38, Duluth; Pedro Cruz, 33, St. Paul; Steven Robert Duncan, 53, Mounds View; Joey James Hagadorn, 39, Superior, Wisc.; April Marie Hagadorn-Bergara, 34, unknown address; John Eugene Highland, 26, Two Harbors; Kirk Paul Johnson, 56, Lutsen; Marques Anthony Jones, unknown age, unknown address; Nichole Ann Kearney, 22, Duluth; Brent Alan Kehler, 44, Blaine; Gail Lynn Lindrud, 53, Forbes; Martin John Lindrud, 53, Forbes; Justin Paul Linskie, 23, Duluth; Darwin Gerald Martin Jr., 28, Princeton; Tracey Lyn Myers, 35, Duluth; Bobbi Sue Nesgoda, unknown age, unknown address; Felix Johnson Rivera, 25, St. Paul; Juan Carlos Vargas Santiago, 28, Minneapolis; John Edmund Schostag, 37, Duluth; Shawn Clarke Spottswood, 28, Hugo; Karen Mae Tremain, 43, Duluth; Michael Allen Trent, 29, unknown address; and Nowal Richard Wiken, 23, Minneapolis.

Also, Anderson, Archambeau, Arellanes, Duncan, Hagadorn, Gail Lindrud, Martin Lindrud, Santiago and Spottswood were each charged with two counts of distribution of methamphetamine. Chapman, Myers and Rivera were also charged with three counts of distribution of methamphetamine, and Trent was also charged with four counts of distribution of methamphetamine.

Brown, Johnson, Jones, Martin Lindrud, Gail Lindrud, Rivera and Tremain were also charged with one count of possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine; Cameron, Cruz, Highland, Johnson, Jones, Kearney, Kehler, Linskie, Martin, Nesgoda, and Wiken were

also charged with one count of distribution of methamphetamine; Hagadorn-Bergara was charged with two counts of possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine; Rivera and Schostag were each charged with one count of possession of a firearm by a felon; and Schostag was also charged with one count of attempted possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine.

“Today’s arrests are a continuation of the significant commitment of officers, special agents and prosecutors to keep the garden of northern Minnesota free of the weeds that are drug traffickers,” said Bernard J. Zapor, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). “The ATF, along with the Lake Superior Drug and Gang Task Force and all of our other partners, are committed to the mission of preventing victimization caused by drugs and violence. In a similar unrelated investigation last year, more than 28 individuals were arrested for possession and distribution of narcotics in the Twin Ports area.”

Three additional defendants have already pleaded guilty in connection with this distribution ring. Johnny Lee Blevins, 23, St. Paul, was sentenced to 60 months in prison and five years supervised release on one count of conspiracy to distribute in excess of 15 kilograms of methamphetamine. Blevins was sentenced on Sept. 24 by U.S. District Court Judge John Tunheim. Blevins was indicted on Feb. 5, and pleaded guilty on May 13.

Edgar Manuel Sierra-Serrano, 29, St. Paul, pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy on May 12, and is scheduled to be sentenced today by Judge Tunheim. Sierra-Serrano was also indicted on Feb. 5.

Jimmy Jo Korf, 27, St. Paul, pleaded guilty July 8 to one count of distribution and possession with intent to distribute in excess of 15 kilograms of methamphetamine. Korf was indicted on April 23. A sentencing date has not been scheduled.

The indictment alleges that from Jan. 1, 2005, through Aug. 18, 2008, the defendants knowingly and intentionally conspired with each other and others to distribute and possess with intent to distribute 50 or more grams of methamphetamine and 500 or more grams of a substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine.

If convicted, each of the 28 defendants face a potential maximum penalty of life in prison. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the Duluth Police Department, the ATF, the Lake Superior Drug and Gang Task Force, the Superior, Wisc. Police Department, the Minnesota State Patrol, the St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office, the Carlton County County Sheriff’s Office, the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, the U.S. Marshals Service and the U.S. Attorney’s Office. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Christian S. Wilton.

An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by a defendant. A defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.