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News Release

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5 indicted on various federal drug charges

Federal grand juries recently handed down separate indictments charging five people on various federal drug crimes.

In an indictment filed on Feb. 14, a 32-year-old Minneapolis man was charged with distributing methamphetamine, a highly dangerous and addictive drug. Michael Irving Canon was charged with one count of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine and two counts of distribution of methamphetamine.

Canon's indictment alleges that from 2006 through Jan. 14, 2008, he knowingly and intentionally conspired with others to distribute and possess with intent to distribute 500 or more grams of a substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine. It also alleges that on Jan. 7, 2008, Canon did unlawfully, knowingly and intentionally distribute approximately 3 grams of pure methamphetamine, and on July 18, 2007, he did unlawfully, knowingly and intentionally distribute approximately 6 or more grams of pure methamphetamine.

If convicted, Canon faces a potential maximum penalty of life in prison on the conspiracy count and 30 years on each of the two distribution counts. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and the Drug Enforcement Administration, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Andrew R. Winter.

In a second indictment filed on Feb. 5, Kelly Marie Jacob, 35, New Richmond, Wisc., and Christopher Dwight Bierbrauer, 37, New Richmond, Wisc., were each charged with one count of conspiracy to possess and distribute 500 or more grams of methamphetamine.

Their indictment alleges that from 2005 through March 20, 2007, the two unlawfully, knowingly and intentionally conspired with each other and others to distribute and possess with intent to distribute 500 or more grams of a substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine.

If convicted, the defendants each 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 and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas M. Hollenhorst.

The third case involves a 26-year-old Bloomington man, Kevin Lydell Brown Jr. Brown was indicted Feb. 5 with one count of possession with intent to distribute cocaine base and one count of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

Brown's indictment alleges that on Jan. 5, 2008, he knowingly and intentionally possessed with intent to distribute approximately 246 grams of a substance containing cocaine base, commonly known as crack. It also alleges that Brown knowingly and intentionally possessed a 9-millimeter semiautomatic pistol.

According to a DEA affidavit, the Bloomington Police Department responded to a domestic assault call at an apartment on Jan. 5. A witness told them that Brown had just committed an assault and was in the apartment. Officers also learned that Brown had a handgun.

When police entered the apartment, they found Brown, along with quantities of marijuana, crack cocaine and cash on the bed. Additional crack cocaine, a handgun and cash were also found in an open backpack.

Cocaine is a powerfully addictive stimulant that directly affects the brain, and crack cocaine is the free-base form of the drug. This form comes in a rock crystal that can be heated and its vapors smoked. The term "crack" refers to the crackling sound heard when it is heated.

If convicted, Brown faces potential maximum penalties of life imprisonment for the distribution charge and five years in prison on the firearm possession charge. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge.

This case is the result of an investigation by the Bloomington Police Department and the DEA, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Tracy L. Perzel.

In a fourth separate indictment filed on Feb. 6, a 49-year-old Hibbing man was charged with one count of possession with intent to distribute marijuana. Matthew X. Lindgren's indictment alleges that on Sept. 11, 2007, he knowingly and intentionally manufactured and possessed with intent to distribute 100 or more marijuana plants.

If convicted, Lindgren faces a potential maximum penalty of 40 years in prison. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the U.S. Forest Service, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeffrey M. Bryan.

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