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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, March 18, 2008

9 sentenced for distributing methamphetamine in Duluth

Nine defendants were sentenced yesterday and today in connection with a methamphetamine distribution ring that sold more than 22 kilograms of the highly addictive and dangerous drug throughout the Duluth area from January 2000 through October 2006.

Those sentenced today at the United States Courthouse in Duluth by U.S. District Court Judge Michael Davis were: James Ricky Fogg, 41, Duluth; Cayetano Gutierrez-Cabrera, 40, Duluth; Martin Vega Hernandez, 41, Brooklyn Park; and Jorge Rosas, 38, Hopkins.

Yesterday, five other defendants were sentenced by Judge Davis. They are: Tammie Leigh Bloomer, 44, Duluth; Gene Lawrence Carter, 34, Duluth; Miguel Martinez, 21, Duluth; Michael Eugene Seebeck, 35, Duluth; and Jerelyn Gayle Wiseman, 49, Duluth.

A tenth defendant, John Raymond Logergren, 58, Duluth, pleaded guilty on March 22, 2007, to one count of aiding and abetting in the distribution of in excess of 50 grams of "actual" methamphetamine. He is awaiting sentencing.

"Those arrested in this case were responsible for destroying some of our neighborhoods and shattering innocent lives," said Duluth Police Chief Gordon Ramsey. "This case highlights the quality work by members of the Duluth Police Department, the ATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives) and the strong partnership we have with U.S. Attorney's Office in dealing with our worst offenders. This case has had a substantial far-reaching impact on our community."

Bloomer was sentenced to 18 months in prison on one count of possession with intent to distribute in excess of 5 grams of "actual" methamphetamine. Carter was sentenced to 48 months on one count of use of a communication facility in furtherance of a felony drug offense.

Gutierrez-Cabrera was sentenced to 36 months on one count of aiding and abetting the distribution of in excess of 50 grams of "actual" methamphetamine. Fogg was sentenced to probation on one count of possession with intent to distribute approximately 4 grams of "actual"

methamphetamine and one count of possessing a firearm during and in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

Hernandez was sentenced to 97 months on one count of aiding and abetting the distribution of in excess of 50 grams of a mixture or substance containing methamphetamine. Martinez was sentenced to 120 months on one count of possession with intent to distribute of in excess of 50 grams of “actual” methamphetamine.

Rosas was sentenced to 46 months on one count of aiding and abetting the distribution of approximately 26.4 grams of a substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine. Seebeck was sentenced to 151 months on one count of possession with intent to distribute approximately 14 grams of methamphetamine. Wiseman was sentenced to probation on one count of aiding and abetting possession with intent to distribute of in excess of 5 grams of “actual” methamphetamine.

Bloomer, Fogg, Gutierrez-Cabrera, Martinez and Wiseman all pleaded guilty in March 2007. Carter, Hernandez and Seebeck pleaded guilty in October 2007, and Rosas pleaded guilty in August 2007.

According to their respective plea agreements, on Oct. 24, 2006, Wiseman possessed with intent to distribute approximately 407 grams of “actual” methamphetamine. Gutierrez-Cabrera distributed approximately 153.75 grams of “actual” methamphetamine on Sept. 8, 2006.

Bloomer possessed with intent to distribute approximately 36 grams of “actual” methamphetamine on Sept. 7, 2006. Hernandez distributed approximately 224 grams of methamphetamine on Sept. 8, 2006.

Martinez possessed with intent to distribute 146.38 grams of “actual” methamphetamine on Sept. 13, 2006. Logergren distributed approximately 407 grams of “actual” methamphetamine on Oct. 24, 2006.

Fogg possessed with intent to distribute approximately 4.4 grams of “actual” methamphetamine on Aug. 17, 2006, along with possessing a .45-caliber handgun. Rosas distributed approximately 26.4 grams of a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine on July 14, 2005. Rosas also agreed that he was responsible for an additional 256.8 grams of a substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine.

Carter used a telephone in connection with the conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and distribute approximately 407 grams of “actual” methamphetamine. Seebeck possessed with intent to distribute approximately 14 grams of a mixture or substance containing methamphetamine on Oct. 17, 2006, and Seebeck also agreed he was responsible for an additional 566 grams of methamphetamine.

Three additional defendants who were also charged in connection with Operation Kit Kat have already been sentenced, each on one count of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Skip David Corley, 34, Duluth, was sentenced June 1, 2007, to 34 months in prison and three years of supervised release.

Corley was found in possession of a 9-millimeter semiautomatic handgun on March 9, 2006.

Corley had previously been convicted of two felonies in St. Louis County – a theft charge in 1992 and a drug charge in 1994.

The second defendant, Zedekiah Zared Smith, 27, Duluth, was sentenced to 54 months and three years of supervised release on Nov. 27, 2007. Smith was found in possession of a .223-caliber rifle on May 22, 2006. He had previously been convicted of two drug felonies in St. Louis County, one in 1999 and the other in 2002.

The third defendant, Jason Alan Stern, 38, Duluth, was also sentenced to 54 months and three years of supervised release. Stern, also known as Jason Tauzell, was sentenced on Sept. 14, 2007. He was found in possession of a semiautomatic rifle on May 22, 2006. Stern had previously been convicted on charges of drug possession, receiving stolen property and fleeing a peace officer in a motor vehicle. The charges occurred in Lake and St. Louis counties, and occurred in 1990, 2005 and 2006.

“Illegally possessing firearms and selling drugs is a great way to get free rent and medical coverage – at a U.S. Penitentiary,” said Bernard Zapor, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) St. Paul Field Division. “We will continue to work in partnership with the Lake Superior Drug and Gang Task Force to rid the Twin Ports area of this threat.”

This case is part of Operation “Kit Kat,” sponsored by the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force. It was the result of an investigation by the Lake Superior Drug and Gang Task Force, the Duluth Police Department and the ATF, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Anders Folk and Christian S. Wilton.