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# **News Release**

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## **Federal jury convicts Columbia Heights man on methamphetamine distribution, firearm charges**

After three hours of deliberation, a federal jury issued a guilty verdict yesterday against a Columbia Heights man who was distributing the highly addictive and dangerous drug methamphetamine.

At the United States Courthouse in Minneapolis, Anthony Joseph Tenerelli, 42, was found guilty April 10 of one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine, one count of possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine and one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm following the four-day trial. An indictment was filed against Tenerelli on June 5, 2007.

According to a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) affidavit, the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant at Tenerelli's residence on Aug. 24, 2006, and found a loaded 9-millimeter Smith and Wesson semi-automatic pistol. Officers also recovered a black pouch, which contained approximately 70 grams of methamphetamine. In a bedroom, police recovered drug paraphernalia, notes indicating drug transactions, another bag containing additional methamphetamine, a box containing 9-millimeter ammunition and a digital scale.

Tenerelli also has an extensive criminal record, and has been convicted of three or more violent felony offenses in both Illinois and Minnesota. In Ramsey County, he was convicted of burglary in the second degree (1984); criminal sexual conduct in the third degree (1997); and assault in the third degree (1997).

Tenerelli faces a potential maximum penalty of life in federal prison. A sentencing date before U.S. District Court Judge Joan Ericksen has not been scheduled.

This case is the result of an investigation by the ATF and the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys David P. Steinkamp and William J. Otteson.

