



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Susan W. Brooks
Southern District of Indiana

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

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INTERSTATE MARIJUANA TRAFFICKERS INDICTED

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that RANDY FAULKNER, 58, Camp Verde, Arizona; ROBERT SHANK, 57, residing in both Rimrock, Arizona and Waveland, Indiana; STEPHEN LARSEN, 60, Cornville, Arizona; and DENNIS LOTHAMER, 58, Yulee, Florida, were indicted by a federal grand jury sitting in Indianapolis for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute more than 100 kilograms of marijuana, a Schedule I, Non-Narcotic Controlled Substance between October, 2006 and April, 2007. The indictment followed an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, and the Safe Streets Task Force.

FAULKNER, SHANK, LARSEN and LOTHAMER were apprehended following an investigation which revealed that these four individuals were involved in a drug trafficking organization transporting marijuana from the state of Arizona into the states of Indiana and Pennsylvania. The indictment alleges that on March 30, 2007, \$230,000 was exchanged in Tucson, Arizona for 560 pounds of marijuana. The marijuana was loaded into a truck and delivered to SHANK in Pennsylvania.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Melanie C. Conour, who is prosecuting the case for the government, FAULKNER, SHANK, LARSEN, and LOTHAMER each face a maximum possible prison sentence of 40 years and a maximum possible fine of \$2,000,000.00. An initial hearing will be scheduled in the near future before a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Indianapolis.

The indictment is an allegation only, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at trial or by guilty plea.

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