



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, September 5, 2007
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TERRE HAUTE CONVENIENCE STORE OPERATOR SENTENCED

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that RAOUL DAVID, 67, Terre Haute, Indiana, was sentenced to 60 months imprisonment today by U.S. District Judge Larry J. McKinney following his guilty plea to one count of conspiracy to distribute pseudoephedrine, a Schedule I Listed Chemical, and four counts of distribution of pseudoephedrine. This case was the result of a three-month investigation by the Vigo County Drug Task Force, Drug Enforcement Administration, and Federal Bureau of Investigation.

DAVID is the proprietor of David's Food Center, a convenience store located at 3700 South State Road 63, Terre Haute, Indiana. DAVID sold pseudoephedrine pills from the convenience store. Records obtained by DEA showed that DAVID rapidly escalated his acquisition of pseudoephedrine pills beginning in November, 2003, when methamphetamine cooks began approaching him about the availability of pseudoephedrine. By February 2004, DAVID began purchasing 16 cases of pseudoephedrine per week. One case of pseudoephedrine contains 12 individual boxes of pills. According to expert testimony, a typical methamphetamine cook can manufacture approximately one ounce of methamphetamine from one case of pseudoephedrine pills.

The law enforcement agencies made controlled purchases of pseudoephedrine from DAVID on four occasions from May 13, 2004 through July 1, 2004. Pseudoephedrine, a principal ingredient in cold medicine, is a precursor chemical for the manufacture of methamphetamine. The evidence demonstrated DAVID's awareness that the pseudoephedrine would be used to manufacture methamphetamine.

According to Bradley A. Blackington, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge McKinney also imposed two years supervised release following DAVID's release from imprisonment. DAVID was fined in the amount of \$15,000.

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