



U.S. Department of Justice

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THREE MEN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON ON DRUG TRAFFICKING AND FIREARMS OFFENSES

ROCKFORD – PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; ANDREW L. TRAVER, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; RICHARD A. MEYERS, Chief of the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department; and CHET EPPERSON, Chief of the Rockford Police Department; today made the following announcement:

United States District Judge Philip G. Reinhard today sentenced **JAMES T. KING**, 32, and **JOAQUIN J. TANKEY**, 35, both formerly of Rockford, Illinois, and **DEMARLON J. LEWIS**, 37, formerly of Chicago, Illinois, to federal prison on drug trafficking and firearms offenses. A federal indictment had charged that King, Tankey and Lewis had committed these offenses between November 16, 2006 and November 30, 2006 in Rockford.

On May 8, 2008, after a three-day jury trial, King and Lewis were found guilty of conspiring to possess more than 5 kilograms of cocaine with the intent to distribute it and of attempting to possess more than 5 kilograms of cocaine with the intent to distribute it. In addition, the jury found King guilty of carrying firearms during and in relation to drug trafficking crimes and of possessing a firearm as a convicted felon. Tankey pled guilty on April 30, 2008, to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine, as well as carrying a firearm during a drug trafficking crime.

King was sentenced to a total of 35 years in federal prison on the drug trafficking and firearms charges. King was sentenced to 30 years imprisonment on the drug trafficking charges to be served consecutively to 5 years imprisonment for carrying a firearm during a drug trafficking crime. The court also ordered King to serve 10 years of supervised release following his release from prison. Lewis was sentenced to 25 years in federal prison on the drug trafficking charges, as well as 10 years of supervised release following his release from prison. Tankey was sentenced to 18 years in federal prison on the drug trafficking and firearms charges. Tankey was sentenced to 13 years imprisonment on the drug trafficking charges and 5 years in federal prison on the firearms charge. The court also ordered Tankey to serve 5 years of supervised release following his release from prison. The defendants will not be eligible for parole.

The case was investigated by the Rockford Office of the ATF, the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department and the Rockford Police Department. The case was prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorneys Joseph C. Pedersen and Scott A. Verseman.

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