



Department of Justice

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HEAD OF METHAMPHETAMINE TRAFFICKING CELL SENTENCED

PRESS RELEASE

Timothy M. Morrison, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that STEPHEN HOOD, 36, Cory, Indiana, was sentenced to 360 months imprisonment late yesterday by U.S. District Judge Larry J. McKinney following his guilty plea to conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. This case was the result of a nine-month investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Metro Drug Task Force, Beech Grove Police Department, Indianapolis Police Department, Marion County Sheriff's Department, Vigo County Drug Task Force, Clay County Sheriff's Department.

HOOD was the leader of a methamphetamine trafficking cell that distributed methamphetamine in the Terre Haute and Brazil, Indiana areas. HOOD received his drugs from a Mexican methamphetamine trafficking organization that smuggled the methamphetamine across the border in McAllen, Texas and California and transported the drugs to Indianapolis. The leader of the organization, Jose Perez received approximately 40 pounds of pure methamphetamine per month from May, 2005 through January, 2006. Perez then "cut" the methamphetamine with equal amounts of dimethylsulfone, a nutrition supplement for horses, into approximately 80 pounds of methamphetamine per month. Wire surveillance and witness statements established that HOOD received approximately 60 pounds of methamphetamine per month during the conspiracy. The wire surveillance also established that HOOD possessed firearms in furtherance of the conspiracy. DEA intercepted telephone conversations involving HOOD on March 16, 2006 which indicated that HOOD intended to kill a methamphetamine customer who owed him money for methamphetamine. DEA, along with local law enforcement authorities, arrived at the methamphetamine customer's residence and prevented any violence from occurring.

According to Assistant U. S. Attorney Bradley A. Blackington, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge McKinney also imposed five years supervised release following HOOD's release from imprisonment. HOOD will be subjected to random searches of his person, vehicle, and residence during the period of supervised release.

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