

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **TAMMS, ILLINOIS MAN SENTENCED AND A CAPE GIRARDEAU WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL DRUG AND WEAPON CHARGES**

March 26, 2007

A Tamms, Illinois man was sentenced today and a Cape Girardeau, Missouri woman pled guilty today to drug and weapon charges, announced United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway.

**CLIFTON BROWN**, age 22, was sentenced to 130 months on two felony counts of possession with intent to distribute marijuana, one felony count of possession with intent to distribute cocaine base, one felony count of possession with intent to distribute cocaine, and one felony count of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

**CRYSTAL M. WARREN**, 22, previously pled guilty to one felony count of possession with intent to distribute five grams or more of cocaine base, and one felony count of possession

with intent to distribute cocaine. Both appeared before United States District Judge Rodney W. Sippel.

On April 17, 2006, state law enforcement officers served a search warrant on a storage facility unit in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, that was rented by Clifton Brown. The officers found and seized approximately four pounds of marijuana, firearms, and other items associated with the sale of controlled substances. The next day, officers received a call from the storage lot employees that Brown and was on the storage lot with another person in a second car. When officers arrived, Brown fled on foot and was later apprehended. The officers searched the apartment where Brown was found, and discovered marijuana, ammunition and two pistols under a bed. Brown later admitted he had the pistol for his protection while selling crack cocaine, cocaine and marijuana.

The officers made contact with the driver of the second car, Crystal Warren. After calling a drug dog to conduct a drug sniff of her car, officers found crack and powder cocaine in the hood compartment.

Warren now faces a maximum punishment of life imprisonment and a \$4,000,000 fine on Count I, and 40 years imprisonment and a \$2,000,000 fine on Count II. Sentencing has been set for June 25, 2007.

Hanaway praised the Cape Girardeau Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration for their work on the case. Assistant United States Attorney Keith D. Sorrell handled the prosecution for the Government.