



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

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16 Defendants Sentenced in November and December 2007
in ATF Led "Operation Highway Men" Investigation

69 Defendants Now Sentenced Federally as Part of Over 2-Year Investigation

(Alexandria, Virginia) - Sixteen defendants were sentenced in November and December 2007 in United States District Court on federal drug and firearms trafficking charges. Those sentenced were arrested between March and August 2007 as part of the second phase of "Operation Highway Men," an Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF)-led Task Force investigation targeting gun and drug traffickers in the eastern area of Prince William County, including the towns of Woodbridge, Dale City, Lake Ridge, Dumfries, and Occoquan. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia; Edgar A. Domenech, Special Agent in Charge, ATF, Washington Field Office; and, Charlie T. Deane, Chief of Police, Prince William County Police Department, made the announcement.

Between March and May 2007, 11 federal search warrants were executed in connection with these defendants. Police seized over 250 grams of crack cocaine, as well as, firearms, drug paraphernalia, more than \$1000 in drug profits, and several automobiles used for drug trafficking. The federal defendants all faced up to life in prison, with mandatory minimum sentences of 10 years in prison. The 16 defendants were responsible for facilitating the daily distribution of crack cocaine from several well-known crack houses and motels in Woodbridge, Dumfries, and Dale City. The defendants received sentences ranging from 46 months to 270 months in federal prison. The 16 defendants sentenced in November and December 2007 join ten other defendants previously sentenced as part of the second phase of "Operation Highway Men."

“Operation Highway Men” has resulted in 109 defendants having been charged in federal and state court on drug trafficking, firearms, and/or related crimes. To date, 74 defendants have been convicted in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. Of the 74 convictions, two have been sentenced to life in federal prison, and 67 defendants have been sentenced to a combined total of approximately 722 years in prison, with an average sentence of over 129 months. 43 of the 69 defendants sentenced federally received sentences of 10 years or more. In addition, 25 individuals have been charged on state narcotics, firearms, or other related charges associated with this investigation; 13 of which have been convicted.

During the course of the entire investigation, law enforcement seized 44 firearms (some of which were stolen) and quantities of crack cocaine, powder cocaine, marijuana, Dilaudid (synthetic heroin) pills, OxyContin pills, Ecstasy pills and percocet pills, as well as thousands of dollars in cash and several automobiles used in drug trafficking.

The “Highway Men” investigation is being conducted by the ATF, in association with the Prince William County, Manassas City, and Manassas Park Police Departments, Virginia State Police, and the United States Marshals Service. The investigation has led to the identity of sources of supply located outside of Virginia and cooperation is ongoing with local law enforcement in Prince George’s County, Maryland; Nash and Wilson Counties, North Carolina; Raleigh City, North Carolina; Kershaw County, South Carolina; Atlanta, Georgia; New York City, and elsewhere. The defendants charged in the second round of the “Highway Men” investigation were prosecuted for the United States Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Virginia by Assistant United States Attorney Dennis Fitzpatrick and Special Assistant United States Attorney Meredith Mills.

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