



Department of Justice

**United States Attorney David L. Huber
Western District of Kentucky**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2008
WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/KYW

CONTACT: SANDY FOCKEN
PHONE: (502) 582-5911
FAX: (502) 582-5097

PADUCAH, KENTUCKY DRUG DEALER PLEADS GUILTY TO DISTRIBUTION OF CRACK COCAINE

PADUCAH, KY - Tarris McKinney, age 23, of 531 North 7th Street, Paducah, Kentucky in McCracken County, pled guilty to distribution of crack cocaine, U.S. Attorney David L. Huber of the Western District of Kentucky, and Paul Vido, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Louisville Field Division, jointly announced today.

McKinney admitted that he sold crack cocaine on three separate occasions. Between June and July, 2006, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) utilized a confidential informant (CI) to make three controlled buys of crack cocaine from Defendant McKinney in Paducah, here in the Western District of Kentucky. Specifically, on June 7, 2006, the CI spoke with McKinney on the phone and arranged to purchase a 1/4 ounce of crack cocaine for \$200.00 in the parking lot at McDonalds. Lab results show the crack cocaine purchased from McKinney on that date weighed 5.5 net grams.

Then, on June 30, 2006, the CI again placed a recorded call to McKinney and arranged to purchase another 1/4 ounce of crack cocaine for \$200.00. This time the crack cocaine purchase took place in the Walgreen's parking lot. Lab results show the crack cocaine purchased on this date weighed 5.5 net grams.

A third controlled purchase was made on July 12, 2006. On that date, the CI once again placed a recorded call to McKinney and arranged to purchase 1/2 ounce of crack cocaine for \$400.00. This time the crack cocaine purchase took place in the SuperValue parking lot. Lab results show the crack-cocaine purchased from McKinney on this date weighed 11.5 net grams, providing an overall total of 22.5 net grams of crack-cocaine. The crack-cocaine recovered in this case has a street value of approximately \$2300.

The combined maximum potential penalties for the three counts are 120 years imprisonment, a \$6,000,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of not less than 4 years. As the Indictment charged McKinney with distributing 5 grams or more of crack cocaine, under federal law McKinney will be facing a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of 5 years. McKinney is currently serving time in the McCracken County Jail on separate state court convictions for drug trafficking, wanton endangerment and carrying a concealed deadly weapon.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Michele Thielhorn, and it was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Louisville Field Division/Paducah Satellite Office in partnership with the Paducah Police Department, as part of ATF's mandated mission to reduce violent crime and other threats to public safety.

The plea was entered before Thomas B. Russell, Judge, United States District Court, Paducah, Kentucky.

McKinney is scheduled to be sentenced before Judge Russell on June 11, 2008 at 11:30 a.m. in Paducah, Kentucky.

###