



**U. S. Department of Justice**  
*United States Attorney*  
*Eastern District of Washington*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  Wednesday, October 01, 2008	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:  Thomas Rice, First Assistant U.S. Attorney (509) 353-2767
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### **“10 MEMBERS OF METHAMPHETAMINE DISTRIBUTION ORGANIZATION ARRESTED”**

Kennewick – Today, James A. McDevitt, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington, announced the results of a cooperative law enforcement operation targeting the supply of methamphetamine to the Eastern District of Washington. Arrests today include:

ALEJANDRO VIZCARRA-MULLAN, age 25, Tri-Cities,  
MODESTA RIVAS-PENA, a/k/a "Concha", age 44, Tri-Cities,  
ANA MARIA ZAZUETA-BUENO, age 43, Tri-Cities,  
JESUS ROGELIA BUENO-FUENTES, a/k/a Rogelia Fuentes, age 58, Tri-Cities,  
SHAWNA LYNN ANDERSON, age 33, Spokane,  
CARLOS VALDEZ-RIOS, a/k/a Ines Tamayo-Lopez, a/k/a Tamayo Lopez-Ines, age 28,  
Spokane,  
WARNER WILLIAM SLATER, age 43, Spokane,  
DANIEL ALLEN FLAGHERTY, age 34, Greenacres,  
GEORGE FLAGHERTY, age 37, Spokane Valley, and  
CHARLES McGEE, age 44, Spokane.

A federal grand jury returned a fifteen-count sealed indictment on September 11, 2008, charging these people as members of a drug conspiracy responsible for distributing methamphetamine in Eastern Washington during the last 4-years.

Today's arrests included the execution of over a dozen search warrants involving about 200 federal, state and local law enforcement authorities. Today's operation caps an 18-month long investigation.

James A. McDevitt, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington, said, "This is an ongoing case that highlights the partnership between the federal, state and local law enforcement."

"I would like to commend the local, state and federal narcotics officers for their dedication and hard work, which has culminated with today's arrests," said Washington State Patrol Chief John R. Batiste. "This important work will reduce the supply of Meth and other drugs on the streets of communities throughout the Northwest."

"Today local, state and federal law enforcement agencies participated in a number of drug raids throughout the Tri-Cities," said Pasco Chief of Police Denis Austin. "The Pasco Police Department appreciates the culmination of this long term investigation by DEA and the arrest of numerous suspects who have been operating this criminal organization from the Tri-Cities. This is another example of cooperation between all levels of law enforcement in eradicating drugs within our communities."

"This criminal organization is thought to be responsible for the importation of a significant portion of the methamphetamine coming into the Spokane area," said Spokane Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich. "This operation is an example of the incredible results of the partnerships and combined efforts of a number of local, state and federal law enforcement agencies."

Kennewick Chief of Police Ken Hohenberg stated, "Working in collaboration with our Federal partners is another strategy in keeping our communities safe -- it is working here in the Tri-Cities."

"Today's arrests by local, state and federal law enforcement officers, highlights our combined dedication to ridding our communities of crime. We are proud to work together in an effort to reduce criminal activity. This type of crime will not be tolerated in the City of Spokane," said Spokane Chief of Police Anne Kirkpatrick.

A conviction for conspiracy carries a minimum penalty of ten-years to life imprisonment, a \$4 million fine, and up to life court supervision after release. Several of the Defendants are charged with individual counts of distribution of methamphetamine which carry either from 5-years to 40-years in prison or up to 20-years in prison, depending on the quantity involved.

This investigation was conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Tri-Cities Metro Drug Task Force, the Benton County Sheriff's Office, the Pasco Police Department, the Kennewick Police Department, the Richland Police Department, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, the Washington State Patrol, the Spokane County Sheriff's Office, the Spokane Police Department, the Spokane Regional Drug Task Force, the Border Patrol, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S Marshal's Service, and the Social Security Administration. This case is being prosecuted by Stephanie Van Marter and Earl Hicks, Assistant U.S. Attorneys for the Eastern District of Washington.

An Indictment Contains Allegations That a Defendant Has Committed a Crime. Every Defendant Is Presumed Innocent until and Unless Proven Guilty Beyond a Reasonable Doubt.