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News Release

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St. Paul man sentenced for drug trafficking

A 39-year-old St. Paul man was sentenced yesterday in federal court for drug-trafficking conspiracy and possession of both methamphetamine and firearms.

On Dec. 16 in Minneapolis, United States District Court Chief Judge Michael Davis sentenced Michael Scott Wahlstrom to 384 months in prison and five years supervised release on one count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine; two counts of possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine; one count of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime; two counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon; and one count of possession of ammunition by a convicted felon. Wahlstrom was indicted in June 2007, and pleaded guilty on Jan. 16.

According to his indictment, Wahlstrom, also known as the "G-Man," conspired with others to possess with intent to distribute 500 or more grams of methamphetamine between May 2006 and March 2007. Methamphetamine is a highly addictive and dangerous drug.

According to court documents, Wahlstrom was arrested on June 9, 2006, in Lino Lakes, and was found in possession of 30 or more grams of methamphetamine and a .22-Magnum revolver. A Jan. 3, 2007, search of Wahlstrom's St. Paul residence yielded 50 or more grams of methamphetamine, and a search of his home in West St. Paul yielded an assault rifle, a semi-automatic handgun and multiple rounds of ammunition.

While in jail awaiting trial, Wahlstrom was overheard threatening to kill the wife of the assistant U.S. attorney who was then handling the prosecution. Agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Marshals Service conducted an investigation of the threats. During the investigation, the agencies arranged a phone call between Wahlstrom and an undercover police officer posing as a paid killer. Wahlstrom offered the undercover officer an expensive vehicle to carry out his plan to kill the attorney's wife. After the call was concluded, Wahlstrom was placed in solitary confinement at a facility in Oak Park Heights in order to insure that no other avenues were available to carry out the threat.

At yesterday's sentencing hearing, Judge Davis found that Wahlstrom had obstructed justice

by threatening the innocent family member of a prosecuting attorney. Wahlstrom's sentence was increased by approximately five years due to the finding that he made the threat.

“Trying to put a hit on a prosecutor or a member of his or her family is an egregious attack on our system of justice and the rule of law,” said U.S. Attorney Frank J. Magill. “We are grateful that Mr. Wahlstrom was held accountable for threatening the spouse of an individual who was simply doing his job.”

This case was the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and Explosives, the Lino Lakes Police Department, the Anoka-Hennepin Drug Task Force, the St. Paul Police Department and the West St. Paul Police Department. The case was initially prosecuted by another assistant U.S. attorney, but was reassigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney David P. Steinkamp after the threat allegation was made to avoid the appearance of any conflict of interest.