



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: OPERATION XPOSED
**NEW YORK MAN SENTENCED FOR
ECSTASY CONSPIRACY**

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a New York man was sentenced in federal court today for his role in a conspiracy to distribute ecstasy in a case that resulted from Operation X-Posed, an investigation into ecstasy, cocaine and methamphetamine trafficking in Greene County.

Operation X-Posed was a long-term, multi-agency investigation into the distribution of tens of thousands of ecstasy tablets throughout southwest Missouri, as well as the Kansas City and St. Louis areas. According to Graves, this was the largest ecstasy ring ever prosecuted in southwest Missouri.

A series of five indictments returned by a federal grand jury meeting in Springfield on April 3, 2003, also charge some defendants with distributing cocaine and methamphetamine, as well as money laundering and firearms violations. The indictments seek the forfeiture of several vehicles and nearly \$400,000 in cash, all of which was allegedly derived from illegal drug sales or used in the conspiracy to distribute illegal drugs.

Andrew G. Matthews, 43, of Brooklyn, N.Y., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr this morning to four years and three months in federal prison.

On Sept. 15, 2003, **Matthews** pleaded guilty to distributing between 4,700 and 5,100 ecstasy tablets to two co-defendants, which they redistributed. Those co-defendants have also pleaded guilty to their role in the conspiracy. On June 4, 2003, co-defendant **Anthony J. Ford**, 33, of Springfield, was sentenced to four years and nine months in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Ford** to forfeit to the United States a 1996 Nissan Pathfinder, which was purchased with proceeds from the sale of ecstasy, and \$1,627 seized from him by law enforcement authorities. On May 30, 2003, co-defendant **Meg Thibodeaux**, 30, of Brooklyn,

N.Y., pleaded guilty to participating in the conspiracy to distribute ecstasy and awaits sentencing.

Four additional co-defendants have also pleaded guilty to participating in the conspiracy to distribute ecstasy from at least as early as April 2001 until Sept. 11, 2001, in Greene County, Mo.

* **Sean C. Fannin**, 35, of Springfield, admitted on Sept. 18, 2003, that he received supplies of ecstasy from **Ford**, which he re-distributed to others in the Springfield area. **Fannin** also admitted that between 4,700 but less than 5,100 ecstasy tablets were distributed during the course of the conspiracy. According to the plea agreement, the amount of ecstasy that the government can readily prove was distributed by **Fannin** was 1,000 tablets.

* **Kyle Woods**, 23, of Springfield, admitted on Sept. 19, 2003, that he received supplies of ecstasy from **Fannin**, which he re-distributed to others in the Springfield area. **Woods** also admitted that he distributed 270 ecstasy tablets to undercover officers.

* **Brandon Smith**, 23, address unknown, admitted on Sept. 17, 2003, that he received supplies of ecstasy from **Ford**, which he re-distributed to others in the Springfield area.

* **Nathan Tomlinson**, 24, address unknown, admitted on Aug. 28, 2003, that he received supplies of ecstasy from **Ford** and **Smith**, which he re-distributed to others in the Springfield area. During the course of the conspiracy, Graves said, **Tomlinson** distributed approximately 150 ecstasy tablets, as well as distributing or being in possession of cocaine and methamphetamine.

These cases are being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robyn L. McKee. They were investigated by the Springfield, Mo., Police Department, COMET (the Combined Ozarks Multi-jurisdictional Enforcement Team), the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service, and the United States Postal Inspection Service.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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