



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OPERATION X-POSED
TWO MORE DEFENDANTS PLEAD GUILTY
IN SOUTHWEST MISSOURI'S
LARGEST ECSTASY RING

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that two more defendants pleaded guilty in federal court to two separate indictments resulting 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.

* **Bobby E. McGraw**, also known as Boxer Bobby, 29, of Springfield, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr on Sept. 15, 2003, to conspiracy to distribute ecstasy and conspiracy to distribute in excess of 50 grams of methamphetamine.

Two co-defendants in the indictment have already pleaded guilty.

On Aug. 22, 2003, co-defendant **Adam R. Vuori**, also known as Tank Dog, 29, of Springfield, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute ecstasy and methamphetamine. On Aug. 12, 2003, co-defendant **Christopher L. McClain**, also known as DJ Mechanic, 29, of

Springfield, has pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting the distribution of ecstasy and carrying a firearm during a drug trafficking offense.

By pleading guilty, Graves said, **McGraw** admitted to distributing Ecstasy to both co-defendants, who redistributed it to others in the Springfield area, from January 2002 to April 2002. **McGraw** distributed at least 310 Ecstasy tablets, Graves said.

McGraw also received supplies of methamphetamine from **Vuori**, Graves added, which **McGraw** then redistributed to others in the Springfield area. **McGraw** admitted to knowledge of 50 to 200 grams of methamphetamine that was distributed in the course of the conspiracy.

As a result of his guilty plea, **McGraw** could be subject to a statutory minimum sentence of at least five years, and up to 40 years, in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$2 million. **McGraw's** sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of presentence investigation by the U.S. Probation Office.

* **Andrew Matthews**, 43, of Brooklyn, New York, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr on Sept. 15, 2003, to conspiracy to distribute ecstasy.

Three co-defendants in the indictment have already pleaded guilty.

On June 17, 2003, co-defendant **Jonathan C. Davis**, 22, of Springfield, Mo., pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute ecstasy. On June 4, 2003, co-defendant **Anthony J. Ford**, 32, of Springfield, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute ecstasy. **Ford** also pleaded guilty to a forfeiture count, which requires him 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**, 29, of Brooklyn, N.Y., pleaded guilty to a conspiracy to distribute ecstasy.

By pleading guilty, **Matthews** admitted that distributed between 4,700 and 5,100 ecstasy tablets to **Ford** and **Thibodeaux**, which they redistributed.

As a result of his guilty plea, **Matthews** could be subject to a sentence of up to 20 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$1 million. **Matthews'** sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of presentence investigation by the U.S. Probation Office.

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 www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow