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NEWS RELEASE

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5 PLEAD GUILTY TO DRUG CONSPIRACY IN OKLAHOMA

MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA - Sheldon J. Sperling, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Oklahoma, announced today that all five defendants in a drug conspiracy which also contained firerarm charges have pled guilty in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma, in Muskogee.

“Charges arose from a year-long investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), and the Ft. Smith Police Department Narcotics Division. Agents made purchases of narcotics in Sebastian County, Arkansas and Sequoyah County, Oklahoma, acting on information received from small-scale informants who purchased narcotics for consumption. Search warrants were served on mini-storage units located in Ft. Smith, Arkansas and Sequoyah County, Oklahoma, that the conspirators used to store their illegal substances,” stated U.S. Attorney Sperling.

JOSEPH ALONDO McADAMS, age 45, of Oklahoma City, pled guilty on April 20 to two counts of possession of methamphetamine, in excess of 50 grams of actual methamphetamine, with intent to distribute the substance, and one count of criminal forfeiture. The crimes took place in August and September of 2006 in Sequoyah County. These charges are in violation of Title 21, U.S.C. Section 841(a)(1) and (b)(1)(A). The statutory range of punishment is ten years to life on each of the drug charges and forfeiture of the 2002 Lexus vehicle from which he delivered methamphetamine, with fines of up to \$4,000,000.00 on each of the drug charges. A preliminary advisory federal sentencing guideline review projects McADAMS could face at least ten years imprisonment and 5 years supervised release.

MELISSA GAIL REESE age 22, of Muldrow, Oklahoma, pled guilty on March 29 to an Information charging her with possession of methamphetamine in excess of 500 grams of a mixture or substance containing a detectable quantity of methamphetamine with intent to distribute the substance on December 15, 2006 in Sequoyah County. The charge is in violation of Title 21, U.S.C. Section 841(a)(1) and (b)(1)(A). The statutory range of punishment is ten years to life, with fines of up to \$4,000,000.00. A preliminary advisory federal sentencing guideline review projects REESE could face 121 to 151 months imprisonment and 5 years supervised release.

LESLIE BERNARD JOHNSON, age 40, of Muldrow, Oklahoma, pled guilty on April 12 to an Information charging him with possession of methamphetamine in excess of 500 grams of mixture or substance containing a detectable quantity of methamphetamine with intent to distribute the substance from April 2006 to February 2007 within the Eastern District of Oklahoma. The charge is in violation of Title 21, U.S.C. Section 841(a)(1) and (b)(1)(A). The statutory range of punishment is ten years to life, with fines of up to \$4,000,000.00. A preliminary advisory federal sentencing guideline review projects JOHNSON could face ten years imprisonment and 5 years supervised release.

BRANDIE ZANE PRICE, age 28, of Muldrow, Oklahoma, pled guilty on April 23 to an Information filed charging her with possession of methamphetamine in excess of 500 grams of mixture or substance containing a detectable quantity of methamphetamine with intent to distribute the substance from May 2006 to February 2007 in Sequoyah County. The charge is in violation of Title 21, U.S.C. Section 841(a)(1) and (b)(1)(A). The statutory range of punishment is ten years to life, with fines of up to \$4,000,000.00. A preliminary advisory federal sentencing guideline review projects PRICE could face from 262 – 327 months imprisonment and 5 years supervised release. This projection is based substantially on her five prior state court felony convictions in Arkansas and Oklahoma.

CURRY ADOYLE DAWSON, age 36, of Spencer, Oklahoma, pled guilty on June 1 to Count 6 of the Indictment filed March 14, charging him with possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, in violation of Title 18, U.S.C. Section 924(c). The statutory range of punishment for this crime is 7 years to life, with fines of up to \$250,000.00. A preliminary advisory federal sentencing guideline review projects DAWSON could face 84 months imprisonment and 5 years supervised release.

Guilty pleas of all five defendants were accepted by magistrate judges in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma, in Muskogee. Sentencings will be scheduled following the completion of presentence reports. All five defendants remain in the custody of the United States Marshals Service.

Assistant United States Attorney Rob Wallace represents the government.

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