



KNOX COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOUR DEFENDANTS CHARGED WITH CONSPIRACY TO MANUFACTURE, DISTRIBUTE METHAMPHETAMINE

Peoria, Ill. – Four defendants were charged with conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine and ICE methamphetamine in the Knox County, Ill., area over the past two years made their initial appearances in federal court in Peoria. Those charged are: Timothy R. Babbitt, 43 of Oneida Ill; Vencon E. Davis, 54, of Galesburg Ill; Alan D. Morgan, 46 of Wataga Ill; and Travis W. Young, 24, of Abingdon Ill.

The grand jury returned the indictment on September 25, 2013; however, the indictment remained sealed pending the defendant's arrests and initial appearances in federal court in Peoria. Davis, Morgan and Young appeared in federal court on October 1, 2013 and Babbitt appeared in federal court on October 15, 2013. All the defendants appeared before U.S. Magistrate Judge John A. Gorman.

The charges are the result on an investigation by the Knox County Sheriff's Department; the Galesburg Police Department; The Illinois State Police Meth Response Team; the Knox County State's Attorney's Office; and the U.S. Attorney's Office. The case is being prosecuted in federal court by Assistant U.S. Attorney Tate Chambers.

The indictment alleges that four defendants conspired together and with others to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine and ICE methamphetamine in Knox County over an eight month period, beginning in or about May 2012 and continuing to January 2013, and involving more than 50 grams of methamphetamine and ICE methamphetamine.

If convicted, the penalty for the offense carries a penalty of 5 to 40 years imprisonment. If a defendant has one or more prior felony drug convictions, the mandatory minimum penalty is enhanced to 10 years to life in Prison.

Members of public are reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation; the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty.