



Department of Justice

United States Attorney A. Brian Albritton
Middle District of Florida

Tampa	Orlando	Jacksonville	Ocala	Fort Myers
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE			CONTACT: STEVE COLE	
March 27, 2009			PHONE: (813) 274-6136	
http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/flm/pr			FAX: (813) 274-6300	

TWO PINELLAS COUNTY MEN SENTENCED ON DRUG CHARGES

Tampa, Florida - U.S. Attorney A. Brian Albritton announced today that U.S. District Judge Elizabeth A. Kovachevich sentenced Christopher Powell, a/k/a "Pistol Peete," (age 33, of Pinellas County) to life in federal prison on conspiracy charges relating to the possession and distribution of cocaine and marijuana. The Court further ordered the forfeiture of \$85,000 in U.S. Currency and three firearms seized from Powell. Judge Kovachevich also sentenced Abram Thompson, a/k/a "Wol," (age 31 of Pinellas County) to 30 years in federal prison on the same charges. Powell and Thompson had been found guilty on December 12, 2008, following a jury trial.

According to court documents, Powell and Thompson were involved for several years in the receipt and distribution of large quantities of cocaine, marijuana, and ecstasy pills. Thompson often received and distributed between five and 20 kilograms of cocaine, multi-pound quantities of marijuana, and thousands of ecstasy pills. Powell had various sources of large quantities of cocaine, marijuana, and ecstasy, which he received and distributed to others.

During the execution of a search warrant at Powell's St. Petersburg residence on July 11, 2008, law enforcement agents seized three handguns and over 200 grams of

cocaine. A search of Powell's safety deposit box in Hollywood, Florida, resulted in the seizure of \$85,000 in drug proceeds.

This case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Tarpon Springs Police Department, St. Petersburg Police Department, Clearwater Police Department, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, Temple Terrace Police Department, and the Manatee County Sheriff's Office. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney W. Stephen Muldrow and Assistant United States Attorney Adelaide Few.