



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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"METHBUSTERS" NETS LUFKIN COUPLE

(Beaumont, Texas) A Lufkin man and woman have been indicted for conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine and possession of a chemical used in the manufacture of methamphetamine. A grand jury sitting in Beaumont returned a superceding indictment yesterday charging **DEANA HOOD LOWERY**, 28, and **ROBERT MICHAEL SMITH**, 24, both of Lufkin, with the drug crimes. Lowery was also charged with two counts of possession of a firearm during and in relation to a crime of drug trafficking.

According to information presented by prosecutors, Lowery and Smith were arrested on June 23, 2004, by Lufkin Police during the execution of a search warrant at a home where they were both staying.

U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas, Matthew D. Orwig, said, "Methamphetamine is destroying lives in east Texas. This office is committed to disrupting the supply of this deadly drug. Methbusters has infiltrated the meth community and will continue to flush the system of this deadly epidemic."

If convicted, Lowery and Smith each face up to life in prison and a \$4 million fine. It is important to note that an indictment is merely a charge and should not be considered as evidence of either innocence or guilt.

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Methbusters is an aggressive initiative that was implemented in June, 2004 to address the growing problem of methamphetamine in East Texas. Methbusters will attack the methamphetamine scourge as the United States Attorney's Office teams with law enforcement to prosecute wholesale distributors of chemicals, methamphetamine cooks and dealers.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the Texas Department of Public Safety Narcotics Section and the Lufkin Police Department are investigating this case. Special Assistant U. S. Attorney Lisa Flournoy is prosecuting the case.

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