

PRESS RELEASE

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MAN WHO FLEW MARIJUANA FROM CALIFORNIA TO IOWA COUNTY SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Trevor Ryan, 29, Granada Hills, Calif., was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to 65 months in prison, without the possibility for parole, for unlawfully possessing 50 kilograms or more of marijuana with intent to distribute. Judge Crabb also entered an order of forfeiture against Ryan's car and his airplane, because Ryan used the plane to transport marijuana from California to Wisconsin. Ryan pleaded guilty to the charges on December 29, 2008.

In January 2008, a search warrant was executed at Ryan's home in Granada Hills, Calif. and officers discovered a large indoor marijuana operation, a drug sales ledger, numerous firearms, receipts for money orders, and \$1,960. Law enforcement officers subsequently learned that Ryan bought a plane and that on October 18, 2008, he was flying to Wisconsin.

California officials notified the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and

DEA learned that Ryan was flying to the Iowa County, Wis., airport. Law enforcement officers were waiting for Ryan at the airport and a search of the plane led to the recovery of 157 pounds of marijuana, three cell phones, a digital global positioning system receiver, and \$1,677.

After his arrest in Wisconsin on October 18, 2008, officers executed a search warrant at another home owned by Ryan in Ukiah, Calif., and discovered another elaborate marijuana grow operation. Ryan's 65-month sentence held him accountable for the marijuana recovered from his plane, as well as his two houses. He was also held accountable for using a special skill, his pilot's license, to commit the offense.

The charges against Ryan were the result of an investigation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Iowa County Sheriff's Department. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy M. O'Shea.

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