**Major Gang Case Results in 37 Bloods Members Sentenced to Over 415 Years in Prison**

9/4/2015

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – A multi-year investigation into the Nine Trey Gangsters Bloods criminal street gang, a set of the East Coast United Blood Nation, concluded yesterday as the final defendant in the district wide investigation pleaded guilty.

The Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) investigation into the Nine Trey Gangsters, designated Operation Ruby Red and Operation Full Blooded Ink, led to the arrest and prosecution of 37 gang members in the Eastern District of Virginia since 2013, resulting in a total of approximately 415 years in prison for the gang members. Much of the criminal activity in the investigation centered on the distribution of narcotics in Virginia, Maryland and the D.C. metro area, namely large quantities of crack cocaine. Other related criminal activity, which often accompanies criminal street gangs, was also discovered, including conspiracy to commit racketeering, violence in aid of racketeering, conspiracy to commit sex trafficking, conspiracy to commit armed robbery, conspiracy to distribute counterfeit currency, and possession and use of firearms.

“The ultimate success of this case is due in large part to the terrific effort of our prosecutors combined with our agency partners and case agents,” said Dana J. Boente, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia. “My hope is that our efforts to investigate and prosecute these gang members will send a clear message to our communities: Violent gangs and their members will not be tolerated. They will be aggressively pursued and prosecuted at every opportunity.”

“The results announced today are due in no small part to the coordination and cooperation of the law enforcement agencies and prosecutors focused on eliminating the threat posed by violent gangs in our region,” said Andrew G. McCabe, Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI’s Washington Field Office.  “We will continue to investigate violent gang members through collaborative efforts with the U.S. Attorney’s Office and the agencies that worked this case.”

Below is a complete list of the individuals who were prosecuted, and the respective outcome of their case:

**Michael Smallwood, aka Heavenly Sovereignty, 45, of Manassas:** Pleaded guilty on April 9, 2013, to conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. Sentenced on July 10, 2013, to 30 years in prison.

**Raymond Dawes, aka Veins, 35, of Manassas:** Pleaded guilty on April 23, 2013, to conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. Sentenced on July 23, 2013, to 12 years 7 months in prison.

**Lovell Ritchie, aka Snax, 31, of Manassas:** Pleaded guilty on April 23, 2013, to conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine.  Sentenced on Dec. 12, 2013, to 12 years 7 months in prison.

**Amanda Ewell, aka Amanda Sovereignty, 30, of Manassas:** Pleaded guilty on June 5, 2013, to conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. Sentenced on Sept. 23, 2013, to 10 years in prison.

**Brynn Lackey, aka BEZ, 33, of Washington DC:** Pleaded guilty on July 3, 2013, to conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. Sentenced on Oct. 01, 2013, to 10 years in prison.

**Thaddaeus Snow, aka Storm,** **25, of Manassas**: Found guilty at trial on Feb. 21, 2014, of various crimes, including sex trafficking, distribution of narcotics, robbery and counterfeit money, violence in aid of racketeering, conspiracy to distribute 280 grams or more of crack cocaine, possession of a firearm, Hobbs Act Robbery, etc. Sentenced on May 9, 2014, to 40 years in prison.

**Curtis Martino, aka Curtis Dodd, aka Red Rum,** **31, of Elkridge, Maryland**: Pleaded guilty on Nov. 20, 2013 to conspiracy to commit sex trafficking. Sentenced on March 21, 2014, to 21 years in prison.

**William Sykes, aka Black Gambino,** **31, of Bealeton**: Found guilty at trial on Feb. 21, 2014, of various crimes, including sex trafficking, distribution of narcotics and counterfeit money, violence in aid of racketeering, conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine, and conspiracy to commit sex trafficking. Sentenced on May 9, 2014, to 30 years in prison.

**George Williams, aka Champ,** **30, of Bealeton**: Pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit racketeering, and use and discharge of a firearm during an act of violence in aid of racketeering. Sentenced on April 8, 2014, to 12 years in prison.

**Markeith Kerns, aka LTK,** **22, of Summerduck**: Pleaded guilty on Oct. 16, 2013, to conspiracy to commit racketeering, and conspiracy to commit sex trafficking. Sentenced on Jan. 3, 2014, to 10 years in prison.

**Janee Yates, aka Alazia,** **25, of Warrenton**: Pleaded guilty on Oct. 3, 2014, to conspiracy to commit racketeering, and conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. Sentenced on Jan. 17, 2014, to 10 years in prison.

**Deontae Holland, aka D-Boy,** **29, of Bealeton**: Pleaded guilty on Oct. 28, 2013, to conspiracy to commit racketeering, and conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. Sentenced on Jan. 17, 2014, to 15 years in prison.

**William Sharp Manning aka Ill Will,** **26, of Warrenton**: Pleaded guilty on Dec. 9, 2013, to conspiracy to commit racketeering, and conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. Sentenced on March 7, 2014, to 15 years in prison.

**James Watson, aka Black Kat,** **36, of Gainesville**: Pleaded guilty on Feb. 10, 2014, to conspiracy to commit racketeering with the predict acts being distribution of heroin, and marijuana and sex trafficking. Sentenced on April 28, 2014, to 2 ½ years in prison.

**Christopher Head aka Briss,** **27, of Washington, D.C.**: Pleaded guilty on Nov. 25, 2014, to conspiracy to commit racketeering, and conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. Sentenced on Feb. 21, 2014, to 11 years in prison.

**Nicole Yates aka Merlot,** **29, of Fairfax**: Pleaded guilty on Oct. 3, 2013, to conspiracy to commit sex trafficking, and conspiracy to commit armed robbery. Sentenced on Jan. 3, 2014, to 10 years in prison.

**Candy Minor,** **30, of Fredericksburg**: Pleaded guilty on Nov. 6, 2013, to conspiracy to commit sex trafficking. Sentenced on Jan. 24, 2014, to 2 years in prison.

**Kaleef Tweedy, aka Bloody Tweed,** **25, of Dumfries**: Pleaded guilty on Dec. 13, 2013, to conspiracy to commit sex trafficking, conspiracy to commit armed robbery and using a firearm during a crime of violence in aid of racketeering. Sentenced on March 14, 2014, to 15 years in prison.

**Justin Finley, aka J Mo,** **26, of Manassas**: Pleaded guilty on Nov. 26, 2013, to conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. Sentenced on Feb. 28, 2014, to 11 years 8 months in prison.

**Stephon Greene aka Blitz,** **23, of Manassas**: Pleaded guilty on Jan. 30, 2014, to conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. Sentenced on April 18, 2014, to 10 years in prison.

**LaTonya Snow, aka Lady Dynasty,** **32, of Manassas**: Pleaded guilty on Jan. 30, 2014, to conspiracy to violate the Mann Act by transporting prostitutes across state lines. Sentenced on April 18, 2014, to 90 days in prison and three years of active probation.

**Devante Jordan, aka Trey,** **23, of Alexandria**: Pleaded guilty on Jan. 14, 2014, to conspiracy to commit armed robbery and using a firearm during a crime of violence. Sentenced on March 28, 2014, to 11 years 8 months in prison.

**Aayron Marshal, aka Mook,** **25, of Warrenton**: Pleaded guilty on Oct. 10, 2013, to conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. Sentenced on Jan. 17, 2014, to 10 years in prison.

**Joshua Pendleton Brooks aka Wacko,** **29, of Manassas**: Pleaded guilty on Jan. 23, 2014, to conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. Sentenced on April 8, 2014, to 5 years 10 months in prison.

**Lionel Ritchie, aka Boogie,** **31, of Remington**: Pleaded guilty on Oct. 3, 2013, to conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. Sentenced on Jan. 3, 2014, to 7 years in prison.

**Jameel Aleem, aka Nino B,** **33, of Washington, D.C.**: Pleaded guilty on Nov. 12, 2014, to conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. Sentenced on Dec. 12, 2014, to 3 years 4 months in prison.

**Antwan Minor, aka Noid,** **35, of Manassas**: Pleaded guilty on Oct. 1, 2013, to conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. Sentenced on Jan. 17, 2014, to 14 years in prison.

**Deyonka Gaskins,** **31, of Manassas**: Pleaded guilty on Feb. 6, 2014, to conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. Due to Gaskin’s lack of criminal history she was eligible for the safe valve guidelines for sentencing (which removes the ten year mandatory minimum portion of her final sentence). Sentenced to 6 days in prison and 3 years of active probation.

**Gracier Isique, 30, of Manassas**: Pleaded guilty on Jan. 16, 2014, to conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. Sentenced to 3 years of active probation.

**Ricardo Simmons**, **26, of Alexandria**: Pleaded guilty on April 21, 2014, to use and discharge of a firearm during an act of violence, and conspiracy to commit Hobbs Act robbery. Sentenced on July 11, 2014, to 12 years 6 months in prison.

**Abdur Roland, aka Boo, 27, of Woodbridge:** Pleaded guilty on Feb. 19, 2015, to Hobbs Act robbery, conspiracy to commit Hobbs Act robbery, brandishing of a firearm during an act of violence, and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. Sentenced on May 08, 2015, 13 years in prison.

**Brien Hughes, aka Poncho, 32, of Fredericksburg:** Pleaded guilty on March 4, 2015, to two separate charges of brandishing of a firearm during an act of violence. Sentenced on Aug. 7, 2015, to 30 years in prison.

**Jonathan Coleman, aka Swagg, 24, of Woodbridge:** Pleaded guilty on March 18, 2015, to brandishing of a firearm during an act of violence. Sentenced on June 19, 2015, to 7 years in prison.

**Robert Bates, aka Kid, 27, of Staunton:** Pleaded guilty on April 16, 2015, to possession of a firearm during an act of violence. Sentenced on July 21, 2015, to 5 years in prison.

**Joshua Lewis, aka Smiley, 25, of Woodbridge:** Pleaded guilty on May 26, 2015, to possession of a firearm during an act of violence. Sentenced on Aug. 14, 2015, to 7 years in prison.

**Dajuan Burrous, aka Baggz, 26, of Dumfries:** Pleaded guilty on Sept. 3, 2015, to brandishing a firearm during or in a relation to a crime of violence. Sentencing set for Nov. 20, 2015.

The case was investigated by OCDETF, Operation Ruby Red.  The OCDETF program is a federal multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional task force that supplies supplemental federal funding to federal and state agencies involved in the identification, investigation, and prosecution of major drug trafficking organizations. The principal mission of the OCDETF program is to identify, disrupt and dismantle the most serious drug trafficking, weapons trafficking and money laundering organizations, and those primarily responsible for the nation’s illegal drug supply.

Agencies who participated in some or all of this investigation include: FBI’s Washington Field Office, Fairfax County Police Department, Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force, Hampton Police Department, Fauquier County Sheriff’s Office, Manassas City Police Department, Prince William County Police Department and the United States Marshal Service.  Assistant U.S. Attorneys Dennis Fitzpatrick, Angela Mastandrea-Miller, and Zach Terwilliger prosecuted the cases along with former Assistant U.S. Attorney Adam B. Schwartz and former Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Catherine Ahn.  The federal prosecutors were assisted by the Prince William and Spotsylvania County Commonwealth Attorneys’ Offices.

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Feds: 24 gangsters indicted in Operation ‘Ruby Red’

Sep 4, 2013

Twenty-four suspected Nine Trey Gangsters, a subgroup of the Bloods street gang, have been indicted on racketeering, drug, sex trafficking and other charges, a spokesman from the U.S. Attorney’s office said Wednesday.

The indictment naming 24 members and associates of the gang, many of whom are from Manassas and Prince William County, was unsealed Wednesday afternoon, according to a news release from the U.S. Attorney’s office.

“Today’s arrests send a clear message that violent gangs have no place in our community,” Valerie Parlave, Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI’s Washington Field office said in the news release. “While you may not see violence on your neighborhood street, gang members attempt to rule through violence and intimidation, a dangerous mix for impressionable youth within our region. Together with our partners in Fairfax County, the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force, and other law enforcement agencies, we will work to eradicate violent gangs and bring their members to justice.”

Prosecutors said Thaddaeus Snow, of Manassas, and Curtis Martino, of Elkridge, Md., led two “line-ups” of the Nine Trey Gangsters who committed illegal activities in Virginia, Washington and Maryland. According to the news release, authorities believe that between 2008 and this year, the two groups of gangsters “engaged in racketeering activity involving the transportation and prostitution of women using force and coercion in Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, New York, and elsewhere; the commission of robberies; and the distribution of cocaine, crack, marijuana, heroin, ecstasy, and prescription painkillers.”

The suspected gang members are also accused of using counterfeit money to finance drug purchases, according to the news release.

The indictment and related court documents were not immediately available Wednesday afternoon.

The indictment alleges several acts of violence undertaken by gang members.  On or about April 1, 2010, according to the indictment, Snow directed gang members Janee Yates, of Warrenton, and William Sykes, of Bealeton, to give a female victim a “buck-fifty,” consisting of slashing the face with a knife from mouth to ear with the aim of requiring 150 stiches to close the wound, because the woman had stolen proceeds of the gang’s drug sales.  Prosecutors said the alleged gangsters were also involved in a shooting on April 12, 2010.

The case, part of an Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force investigation called Operation “Ruby Red,” was investigated by the FBI’s Washington Field Office and the Fairfax County Police Department, with assistance from the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force, Hampton Police Department, Fauquier County Sheriff’s Office, Manassas City Police Department, and the United States Marshal Service, according to the news release.

The following people are named in the indictment:

* Thaddaeus Snow, also known as “Storm,” 23, of Manassas, is charged with conspiracy to commit racketeering, violence in aid of racketeering, conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine, conspiracy to commit sex trafficking, conspiracy to commit robbery, and using and carrying a firearm during a crime of violence and in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.
* Curtis Martino, also known as “Curtis Dodd,” or “Red Rum,” 29, of Elkridge, Md., is charged with conspiracy to commit racketeering and conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine.
* William Sykes, also known as “Black,” 29, of Bealeton, is charged with conspiracy to commit racketeering, violence in aid of racketeering, conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine, conspiracy to commit sex trafficking, and using a firearm during a crime of violence.
* George Williams, also known as “Champ,” 28, of Bealeton, is charged with conspiracy to commit racketeering, violence in aid of racketeering, conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine, conspiracy to commit sex trafficking, and using a firearm during a crime of violence.
* Markeith Kerns, also known as “LTK,” 20, of Summerduck, Va., is charged with conspiracy to commit racketeering, violence in aid of racketeering, conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine, conspiracy to commit sex trafficking, and using a firearm during a crime of violence.
* Janee Yates, also known as “Alizia,” 23, of Warrenton, is charged with conspiracy to commit racketeering, violence in aid of racketeering, conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine, and conspiracy to commit sex trafficking.
* Deontae Holland, also known as “D-Boy,” 27, of Bealeton, is charged with conspiracy to commit racketeering, conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine, and conspiracy to commit sex trafficking.
* William Sharp Manning, also known as “Ill Will,” 24, of Warrenton, is charged with conspiracy to commit racketeering, conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine, and conspiracy to commit sex trafficking.
* James Watson, also known as “Black Kat,” 34, of Gainesville, is charged with conspiracy to commit racketeering, conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine, and conspiracy to commit sex trafficking.
* Christopher Head, also known as “Briss,” 25, of Washington, is charged with conspiracy to commit racketeering and conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine.
* Nicole Yates, also known as “Merlot,” 27, of Fairfax, is charged with conspiracy to commit sex trafficking, conspiracy to commit robbery, and using a firearm during a crime of violence.
* Candy Minor, 28, of Fredericksburg, is charged with conspiracy to commit sex trafficking, conspiracy to commit robbery, and using a firearm during a crime of violence.
* Kaleef Tweedy, also known as “Bloody Tweed,” 23, of Dumfries, is charged with conspiracy to commit sex trafficking, conspiracy to commit robbery, and using a firearm during a crime of violence.
* Justin Finley, also known as “J Mo,” 24, of Manassas, is charged with conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine and conspiracy to commit sex trafficking.
* Stephon Greene, also known as “Blitz,” 21, of Manassas, is charged with conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine and conspiracy to commit sex trafficking.
* LaTonya Snow, also known as “Lady Dynasty,” 30, of Manassas, is charged with conspiracy to commit sex trafficking.
* Devante Jordan, also known as “Trey,” 21, of Alexandria, is charged with conspiracy to commit robbery and using a firearm during a crime of violence.
* Aayron Marshal, also known as “Mook ,” 23, of Warrenton, is charged with conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine.
* Joshua Pendleton Brooks, also known as “Wacko,” 27, of Manassas, is charged with conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine.
* Lionel Ritchie, also knowon as “Boogie,” 29, of Remington, is charged with conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine.
* Jameel Aleem, also known as “Nino B,” 32, of Washington, is charged with conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine.
* Antawn Minor, also known as “Noid,” 33, of Manassas, is charged with conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and carrying a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.
* Deyonka Gaskins, 29, of Manassas, is charged with conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine.
* Gracier Isique, 28, of Manassas, is charged with conspiracy to distribute cocaine.

All of the defendants face a maximum penalty of life imprisonment if convicted.