



U. S. Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

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51-COUNT SUPERSEDING INDICTMENT FOR DOGFIGHTING CONSPIRACY

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA – A federal grand jury has returned a superseding indictment charging three men – including a Federal Bureau of Prisons employee – with 51 counts of federal dogfighting offenses. The charges stem from an investigation into drug trafficking and a large-scale illegal dogfighting operation involving over 100 dogs. The superseding indictment was announced by Lawrence Keefe, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Florida.

Most of the dogs used by the defendants were recovered by the United States Marshals Service and have been placed with appropriate foster organizations.

The defendants named in this indictment are:

- Jermaine Terrell Hadley, 31, Quincy, Florida;
- Leonard Safford, 37, Gretna, Florida;
- Decarlise Chapman, 46, Marianna, Florida.

The superseding indictment adds Chapman, who is an employee of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, as a defendant in the case. Hadley and Stafford, among several other individuals, were named in the June 4, 2019, indictment in this case, but the other defendants have entered guilty pleas and therefore are not included in the superseding indictment.

“From the beginning, this case has shocked the sensibilities of decent, law-abiding people throughout the Northern District of Florida – and it’s even more shocking when an individual in a position of public trust has been added to those charged with these shameful activities,” U.S. Attorney Keefe said.

The superseding indictment and arrests resulted from an extensive investigation by the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF), a joint federal, state, and local cooperative, which targeted a drug trafficking organization that also allegedly organized and conducted a large-scale illegal dogfighting operation throughout the Northern District of Florida between 2014 and 2019. During the investigation, undercover operations were conducted to infiltrate the ring; execute multiple search warrants on properties allegedly involved in training, housing, and conducting illegal dogfights; and successfully raid a dogfight in progress.

If convicted, the charged defendants face penalties of up to five years imprisonment and fines up to \$250,000, per count. Trial is set for February 3, 2020, at 8:15 a.m., at the United States Courthouse in Tallahassee.

Participating in the investigation of the cases were the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General, Homeland Security Investigations, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the United States Marshals Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of Inspector General, U.S. Customs and Border Protection Air and Marine Operations, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office, the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, the Florida Highway Patrol, the Chattahoochee Police Department, the Tallahassee Police Department, the Leon County Sheriff's Office, the Calhoun County Sheriff's Office, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and the Florida Air National Guard Counterdrug Program. The cases are being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Eric Mountin.

The OCDETF approach to combating drug trafficking is the nation's primary tool for disrupting and dismantling major drug trafficking organizations, targeting national and regional level drug trafficking organizations, and coordinating the necessary law enforcement entities and resources to disrupt and dismantle the targeted criminal organization and seize its assets.

An indictment is merely an allegation by a grand jury that a defendant has committed a violation of federal criminal law and is not evidence of guilt. All defendants are presumed innocent and entitled to a fair trial, during which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Florida is one of 94 offices that serve as the nation's principal litigators under the direction of the Attorney General. To access public court documents online, please visit the [U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida](#) website. For more information about the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Florida, visit <http://www.justice.gov/usao/fln/index.html>.

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