

Early Thursday morning, troopers, deputies, federal agents and city officers met at the Indiana State Police Post at Sellersburg to have a briefing before going out to arrest twenty individuals from Clark, Floyd, Harrison, Jackson, Jennings, Scott and Washington Counties on arrest warrants.

The arrest warrants were the result of investigations conducted by Indiana State Police Undercover Units in the last several months with the assistance of officers from the Washington County Sheriff's Department and Salem City Police Department.

Washington County Prosecutor Dustin Houchin said the arrests were the result of several months of investigations by a number of different agencies and they were the ones who decided when it was time to move from investigation to arrests.

"We leave the decision on when it's time to close in primarily up to the officers who are leading the investigation," he said. "Once we get to the point where we feel like we have solid cases on most of our targets, we move, and we felt like now was the time to move on this one."

Houchin said many of the investigations are on-going.

During one of the arrests, at 5004 South Hardy Mill Road, Lexington, Scott County, troopers seized over 100 grams of Crystal Methamphetamine with a street value of over \$10,000.00.

This investigation is continuing with one of the local prosecutor's, Dustin Houchin, from Washington County saying, "In Washington County, we are continually working to detect, apprehend and prosecute those responsible for dealing drugs in our streets. Our community does not tolerate this kind of behavior, and these individuals will be held accountable for their actions."

This operation took a large amount of Methamphetamine off the streets and Houchin admitted to seeing an up-tick in Meth related arrests of late.

“I’ve been seeing more Meth and we had gone away from that a little bit,” Houchin said. “I am finding that’s a state-wide trend as I talk to other prosecutors. I think it’s based on availability and price.”

Houchin said Meth taken off the street in Operation Eclipse was imported.

“Our goal was to get the Meth off the streets, but also get these people who are selling poison in our streets to have to face accountability for that,” he said.

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Operation . . .

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“We’ve been working on this as a concerted effort with a number of agencies for months and months. This was a culmination of that work.”

Below are the people arrested, their charges and the jail they were incarcerated in.

Chad Anderson, 39, 3956 South Hickory Grove Road, Pekin, IN. *Dealing in Methamphetamine, (Two Counts). *Possession of Methamphetamine (Two Counts). Washington County Jail.

Corey Bohannon, 30, 22503 Daisy Hill Road, Borden, IN.*Dealing in Methamphetamine, (Two Counts).*Possession of Methamphetamine (Two Counts). Clark County Jail.

Zane Bowman, 45, 4805 Walnut Ridge Road, Salem, IN.*Dealing in Methamphetamine.*Possession of Methamphetamine.Washington County Jail.

Jonathan Chilton, 32, 5657 East County Road 400 South, Seymour, IN.* Dealing in Methamphetamine, (Two Counts).*Possession of Methamphetamine (Two Counts).*Dealing in Heroin.*Possession of Heroin. Jackson County Jail.

Gary W. Dent, 30, 381 South Park Street, Pekin, IN.*Dealing in Methamphetamine.*Possession of Methamphetamine. Washington County Jail.

Christopher M. Hammill, 37, 21180 East State Road #362, Lexington, IN.*Dealing in Methamphetamine, (Two Counts).*Possession of Methamphetamine (Two Counts). Clark County Jail.

Lucas Hatcher, 21, 101 Northern Avenue, Salem, IN.*Dealing in Methamphetamine, (Two Counts).*Possession of Methamphetamine (Two Counts).*Habitual Felony Offender. Washington County Jail.

Robin R. Hodson, 46, 509 Colony Drive, Salem, IN.*Dealing in Methamphetamine, (Two Counts).*Possession of Methamphetamine (Two Counts). Scott County Jail.

Jessica M. Lopez, 27, 1180 North Renee Court, Pekin, IN.*Dealing in Methamphetamine.*Possession of Methamphetamine.Washington County Jail.

Timothy Mitchell, JR, 33, 506 Accrusia Avenue, Clarksville, IN.*Dealing in

Methamphetamine.*Possession of Methamphetamine. Clark County Jail.

Garry E. Morrow, 37, 5004 South Hardy Mill Road, Lexington, IN.*Dealing in Methamphetamine, (Two Counts).*Possession of Methamphetamine (Two Counts). Scott County Jail.

Garry Lowery, 64, 5004 South Hardy Mill Road, Lexington, IN.*Possession of Methamphetamine.*Possession of Paraphernalia.*Maintaining a Common Nuisance.Arrested on new charges. Scott County Jail.

Suzanne Wiesman, 36, 5004 South Hardy Mill Road, Lexington, IN.*Dealing in Methamphetamine.*Possession of Methamphetamine.*Possession of Stolen Property.*Possession of Paraphernalia.*Maintaining a Common Nuisance.Arrested on new charges. Scott County Jail.

Mary Ruth Pierce, 38, 105 Teresa Street, Salem, IN.*Dealing in Methamphetamine, (Two Counts).*Possession of Methamphetamine (Two Counts).Washington County Jail

Clarissa L. Roach, 33, 11190 South Green Mill Road, Hardinsburg, IN.*Dealing in Methamphetamine, (Five Counts).*Possession of Methamphetamine (Two Counts).Washington County Jail

Kenneth R. Saylor, 58, 1886 West Morgan Lane, Pekin, IN.*Dealing in Methamphetamine. Harrison County Jail

Constance M. Scanlon, 42, 4805 West Walnut Ridge Road, Salem, IN.*Dealing in Methamphetamine.*Possession of Methamphetamine.*Aiding, Inducing or Causing an Offense, Dealing in Methamphetamine.Washington County Jail

Jamie R. Sheckles, 33, 1612 East Oak Street, New Albany, IN.* Dealing in Methamphetamine, (Four Counts).*Possession of Methamphetamine.*Dealing in a Narcotic Drug, (Two

Counts). *Possession of a Narcotic Drug. *Unlawful Possession of a Firearm by a Serious Violent Felon. *Possession of a Controlled Substance. *Dealing in Marijuana. *Possession of Marijuana. *Maintaining a Common Nuisance. *Possession of Paraphernalia. Floyd County Jail

Leslie E. Spaulding, 37, 113 Hickory Avenue, Salem, IN. *Dealing in Methamphetamine, (Two Counts). *Possession of Methamphetamine (Two Counts). Washington County Jail

Anthony Spencer, 35, 3578 Laughton Court, North Vernon, IN. *Dealing in Methamphetamine. *Possession of Methamphetamine. *Habitual Felony Offender. Clark County Jail

Agencies Assisting-Prosecutors from all counties involved, Sheriff's Departments from all counties involved and Agents from the Federal Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Agency.

Houchin always talks about how well local agencies work together, but in this instance he applauded the entire Southern Indiana law enforcement community.

"Criminals don't always obey county-line boundaries," he said. "It's great for us to be able to work with other agencies. We are fortunate for us to be able to work with these other agencies.

"Most of the arrest came out of Washington County and I believe that's the result of the interest the State Police and other agencies have toward working our county because we provide an atmosphere that's good to work in and they know our prosecutor's office take these cases serious."