



Owensboro Police Department

Art Ealum
Chief of Police

222 E. 9th Street Owensboro, KY 42303

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE: Public Information Office
DATE OF RELEASE: **September 22, 2023**
REPORT NUMBER: N/A
SUBJECT: Significant Arrests ****UPDATE****
RELEASED BY: Officer Dylan Evans

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Drug Traffickers Found Guilty in Federal Trial

****UPDATE**** - On Thursday, September 21, 2023, The United States District Court for the Western District of Kentucky returned a guilty verdict on two males for the following:

- **Cedric Swanagan (37 Years old of Owensboro, Kentucky) – Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine and Possession with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine.**
- **Courtland Reed (32 Years old of Owensboro, Kentucky) – Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine and Possession with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine.**

Swanagan faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years to life in prison while Reed faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 25 years to life in prison. Sentencing is scheduled for January 25, 2024.

On Wednesday, April 13th, 2022 significant arrests were made as the result of an ongoing and long-term drug investigation with multi-jurisdictional cooperation.

Local Detectives from the Owensboro Police Department were assisted by agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), and the Owensboro-Daviess County High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force (HIDTA). Detectives from the Kentucky State Police, Daviess County Sheriff's Office, and the McLean County Sheriff's Office also assisted during portions of this investigation.

The long-term investigation resulted in the execution of 8 search warrants at locations

throughout the Daviess County Area. Additionally, 11 subjects were arrested on Federal Indictments and 3 subjects are being held on State drug-related charges.

The United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Kentucky will be handling all federal charges related to this investigation. Additional charges and arrests are expected as this investigation continues.



THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of JUSTICE

United States Attorney's Office
Western District of Kentucky

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 22, 2023
WDKY.gov | [@WDKYnews](https://twitter.com/WDKYnews)

Contact: Dawn Masden

Dawn.Masden@usdoj.gov

Federal Jury Finds Two Owensboro Men Guilty of Methamphetamine Trafficking Offenses

Owensboro, KY – Yesterday, a federal jury in Owensboro, Kentucky convicted two local men of conspiring to possess with the intent to distribute methamphetamine and possessing with intent to distribute methamphetamine.

U.S. Attorney Michael A. Bennett of the Western District of Kentucky, Special Agent in Charge Sheila G. Lyons of the DEA Chicago Field Division, and Chief Art Ealum of the Owensboro Police Department made the announcement.

According to court documents and evidence presented at trial, **Cedric Swanagan**, 37, and **Courtland Reed**, 32, were convicted of conspiring to possess with the intent to distribute over 50 grams of methamphetamine between September 2021 and April 4, 2022, in Daviess County, Kentucky and elsewhere. The jury also convicted both **Swanagan** and **Reed** of possession with the intent to distribute over 50 grams of methamphetamine on February 22, 2022, in Daviess County and elsewhere. The evidence presented at trial included recorded phone calls between the defendants that were intercepted during a federal wiretap investigation and evidence involving approximately 876 grams of pure methamphetamine associated with the defendants.

The jury further found that **Swanagan** had committed one serious drug felony and that **Reed** had committed one serious drug felony and one violent felony prior to committing the offenses in this case. These findings increased the mandatory minimum sentences for both defendants.

Sentencing is scheduled for January 25, 2024, before a United States District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky. **Swanagan** and **Reed** both remain in federal custody pending sentencing. **Swanagan** faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years and a maximum of life in prison. **Reed** faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 25 years a maximum of life in prison. A federal district court judge will determine any sentence after considering the sentencing guidelines and other statutory factors. There is no parole in the federal system.

The DEA and the Owensboro Police Department investigated this case, with assistance from the Daviess County Sheriff's Office, the Department of Homeland Security Investigations, the Indiana State Police, the Kentucky State Police, the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office, the McLean County Sheriff's Office, and the Owensboro-Daviess County Appalachia High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (AHIDTA) Task Force.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Frank Dahl and Josh Porter are prosecuting the case, with assistance from paralegal specialist Aaron Cooper.

This effort is part of an **Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces** (OCDETF) operation. OCDETF identifies, disrupts, and dismantles the highest-level criminal organizations that threaten the United States using a prosecutor-led, intelligence-driven, multi-agency approach. Additional information about the OCDETF Program can be found at www.justice.gov/OCDETF.

###