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North Pole Man Sentenced Following Drug Conviction

(FAIRBANKS, Alaska) – On Friday, Jan. 29, 2016, after an intensive, joint investigation between the Alaska State Troopers Fairbanks Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit (Fairbanks SDEU), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and U.S. Attorney’s Office, Ray Don Groskreutz, 39 of North Pole, was sentenced today in Federal court to 13 years of prison followed by 4 years of supervised release. Groskreutz was arrested on July 27, 2015, after the Alaska State Troopers conducted a welfare check on Groskreutz at a Fairbanks hotel where he was staying. When AST encountered him, Groskreutz admitted he had been “shooting up” earlier that day, and agreed to be searched. Groskreutz had a loaded .380 caliber handgun on his hip, along with nearly \$6,000 in cash and a Taser on him. Subsequently numerous search warrants were sought which revealed Groskreutz’s backpack contained over 200 grams of methamphetamine, 71.1 grams of heroin, \$11,000 cash, a drug ledger, a digital scale, and numerous small unused plastic baggies, and drug paraphernalia. Groskreutz’s van, parked at the hotel, contained another 14 firearms and numerous rounds of ammunition, and another \$6,000 in cash. Investigators confirmed Groskreutz was on court-ordered release in connection with three separate state criminal cases when they contacted him.

The Alaska State Trooper Fairbanks Statewide Drug Unit estimated the street value of the methamphetamine totaled more than \$62,000. The street value of the heroin seized was approximately \$24,275.

“Through the hard work of all the investigators involved, from all the different agencies we were able to inflict a significant blow to the illegal drug distribution industry in the Fairbanks North Star Borough area,” said Sergeant Aaron Mobley, a member of the Statewide Drug Enforcement Unit. “I’m proud of how much time and dedication everyone put forth to reach this outcome.”

The Alaska State Troopers, Drug Enforcement Administration, Fairbanks Police Department, North Pole Police Department, UAF police department and the U.S. Attorney’s Office all collaborated on this investigation.

Link to USDOJ Press Release:

<http://www.justice.gov/usao-ak/pr/north-pole-man-sentenced-thirteen-years-prison-fairbanks-methamphetamine-heroin-and>