

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR
413 Second Street
Belvidere New Jersey 07823
Phone: (908) 475-6275
Fax: (908) 475-6286



THOMAS S. FERGUSON
County Prosecutor
ANGELA F. BORKOWSKI
First Assistant Prosecutor
HOWARD A. MCGINN
Deputy First Assistant Prosecutor
MARK L. FRANCIS
Senior Assistant Prosecutor
KIRK T. TRAUGER
Chief of Detectives

County of Warren

AMENDED PRESS RELEASE

Please Note New Jersey State Police Eradication Unit Tip-line
Number on second page.**

ARRESTED: William J. Edwards
101 Delaware Road
Columbia, NJ 07832
Date of Birth: January 17, 1968
Employer: Unemployed

The above named individual was arrested yesterday, Thursday, August 7, 2008 following a marijuana eradication mission conducted by the Warren County Multi-Jurisdictional Narcotics Task Force with the assistance of the National Guard Ariel Support Assistance Program (A.S.A.P.) and the New Jersey State Police.

It is alleged that the marijuana plants were observed by members of the Task Force from a helicopter operated by the National Guard Ariel Support Assistance Program (A.S.A.P.) on July 15, 2008 in a field off of Delaware Road in Knowlton Township. The property where the marijuana was growing was owned by the State of New Jersey. As the grower of the marijuana plants could not be immediately determined, a covert surveillance camera was installed at the cultivation site. During the period of the surveillance, the camera recorded multiple video images of Mr. Edwards tending to the marijuana plants. Mr. Edwards resides directly opposite the site of the marijuana grow. Contact was made with Mr. Edwards who admitted that he was responsible for cultivating the plants. A search of Mr. Edwards home found him to be in possession of a small amount of marijuana.

Mr. Edwards has been charged with one (1) count of Manufacturing Marijuana More than 10 Marijuana Plants but less than 50 Marijuana Plants, a second degree offense in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5a(1) and

N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(10)(b) and (1) count of Possession of Less than 50 grams of Marijuana, a disorderly persons offense, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10a(4).

The second degree crime of Manufacturing Marijuana carries a maximum penalty of up to ten (10) years in New Jersey State Prison and a \$150,000 fine. The disorderly persons offense for Possession of Less than 50 grams of Marijuana carries a maximum penalty of six (6) months in the Warren County Correctional Center and a \$500 fine.

Bail was set by John H. Pursel, Judge of the Superior Court, at \$75,000 with no ten (10) percent option. Mr. Edwards will make his first appearance this afternoon in the Warren County Criminal Court at 1:30 p.m. He was incarcerated at the Warren County Correctional Center in lieu of bail.

The New Jersey State Police Eradication Unit has a tip-line for any information concerning marijuana growing in New Jersey. The tip-line number is 1-888-798-WEED (9333). If the information provided leads to the seizure of growing marijuana, the caller may be paid up to \$1,000.

Please be advised that the defendant is presumed innocent of all charges unless and until proven guilty.

Approved by:



THOMAS S. FERGUSON
Prosecutor of Warren County

Dated: August 8, 2008