

37 arrested in raids on Sons of Silence/ Undercover investigation leads to drug trafficking and weapons charges.

Danielle Nieves; The Gazette

DENVER - One of the state's largest federal undercover operations has resulted in the arrests of at least 37 motorcycle gang members and their associates on suspicion of drug trafficking and possession of illegal weapons.

More than half of those arrested were Colorado Springs residents, according to documents released Friday by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Federal as well as local law enforcement agents fanned out in Colorado Springs, Denver, Fort Collins and surrounding areas beginning Thursday evening to search suspects' homes and make arrests.

During the searches, about 20 pounds of methamphetamine, 35 guns, four hand grenades, two silencers, cash and motorcycles were seized from members and individuals involved with the Sons of Silence Motorcycle Club.

The group is described by authorities as a national motorcycle gang of mostly middle-age men and women. It has a chapter in Colorado Springs.

Those arrested were among the 42 people, five of them women, named last week by a federal grand jury in 19 separate indictments.

The indictments charge all 42 people with violations of federal gun and drug laws. One indictment specifically alleges 19 people were involved with the gang to conspire to distribute methamphetamine and marijuana from their Colorado Springs clubhouse.

Officials said five people were still at large Friday afternoon.

"This is a very substantial case," U.S. Attorney Thomas Strickland said at a news conference Friday in Denver.

The two-year investigation began in Colorado Springs as ATF agents saw repeated firearm and explosive violations by members of the Sons of Silence.

During the investigation, two undercover agents purchased 78 firearms and other illegal weapons and explosives from gang members. Agents also purchased nine pounds of methamphetamines.

According to the indictment, firearms allegedly were available at the gang's clubhouse at 941 S. Conejos St. to keep out authorities and rival gangs. The clubhouse also allegedly was used by members to distribute methamphetamine and marijuana.

The indictment identified the following people as officers of the Colorado Springs chapter of the Sons of Silence Motorcycle Club: national vice president Steven Wayne Kressin, president Jason Reed, vice president Frank Dodge Pierson, treasurer Carey L. Hess and enforcer Jack C. Carpenter.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the Colorado Springs Police Department were also involved in the investigation.

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LIST OF PEOPLE NAMED IN INDICTMENTS

The following people were indicted by a federal grand jury on federal violations of drug and gun laws.

David E. Anderson, 41, of Colorado Springs

* Larry Ray Anderson

David C. Armstrong, 43, of Colorado Springs

Evan R. Biteman, 38, of Fort Collins

* Steven A. Bonin, 43, of Englewood

Robert E. Bryant Jr., 18

* Robert L. Bryant, 43, of Colorado Springs

- * Jack C. Carpenter, Colorado Springs
- Nicholas C. Cassavetes, 43, of Laporte
- * Ralph A. Collman, 52, of Colorado Springs
- Charles H. Corrigan, 41, of Colorado Springs
- Andrew E. Dorrance, 37, of Commerce City
- Sonja K. Duran, 38, of Colorado Springs
- Kevin C. Eaton, 45, of Bailey
- * Scott L. Hagerdon, 33, of Commerce City
- * Carey L. Hess, 38, of Colorado Springs
- Terry Wayne Ives, 41, of Colorado Springs
- Walter Janis
- * Charles J. Jimenez, 41, of Loveland
- * Steven W. Kressin, 43, of Colorado Springs
- * Mark D. Landers, 39, of Elbert
- James Louchart, 46, of Colorado Springs
- * Douglas A. Lockett, 40, of Colorado Springs
- William Joseph Mason
- Vellia Morin, 39, of Colorado Springs
- Terry L. Nolde, 46, of Colorado Springs
- Terry A. Paris, 36, of Colorado Springs
- Mark A. Peterson, 24, of Colorado Springs
- * Frank D. Pierson, 42, of Colorado Springs
- * Patricia Pierson
- * Jason Reed, 25, of Colorado Springs
- Leonard L. Reed, 52, of Ramah
- Willard M. Rice, 33, of Fountain
- * Jerold W. Richardson, 44, of Commerce City
- Mariam L. Schuster, 35, of Colorado Springs
- Leonard Ray Shipley, 47
- Robert L. Snodgres, 42, of Lake George
- * Michael J. Sorg, 23, of Littleton
- Don A. Underwood, 39, of Colorado Springs
- Kena J. Verden, 31, of Colorado Springs
- * Mark G. Wagar, 48, of Colorado Springs
- Virgil Lee Ward, 32, of Colorado Springs
- * Members of the Sons of Silence Motorcycle Club

- Source: Federal court documents
MOTORCYCLE CLUB OFFICERS AMONG THOSE ARRESTED

@CUTLINE: Carpenter: Sons of Silence enforcer.

@CUTLINE: Hess: Sons of Silence treasurer.

@CUTLINE: Reed: Sons of Silence president.

@CUTLINE: Pierson: Sons of Silence vice president.

@CUTLINE: Kressin: Club's national vice president.

@CUTLINE: Courtesy of the ATF - These weapons are among those seized in raids across the Front Range beginning Thursday night. Agents seized 35 guns, two silencers, four hand grenades and about 20 pounds of suspected drugs.

@CUTLINE: Rick Scibelli/The Gazette - Federal and local law enforcement agents prepare to execute a search warrant Friday morning in Colorado Springs during a statewide effort to arrest people indicted last week by a federal grand jury on gun and drug charges.