

Nearly two dozen apprehended in 'large-scale' drug sweep

State and federal officials apprehended nearly two dozen people on Wednesday and are searching for five more in what officials are calling a large-scale drug sweep.

Jason Johnson, 37, Gary Richardson, 43, Devontre Brent, 26, Sonja Adams, 54, and Charity Griffith, 39, are being sought by the U.S. Marshal's Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force (NOVFTF).

Twenty three out of the 28 people targeted by the task force were apprehended Wednesday, according to a news release from METRICH Enforcement Unit. Four other suspects were arrested for other warrants or on unrelated charges.

The 28 people had been indicted by a Richland County grand jury on 56 counts of drug trafficking and other related charges, the release says.

On Wednesday, authorities searched 354½ Wayne St and 10 Gray Ct. in Mansfield, seizing 21 grams of crystal methamphetamine, powder cocaine, and assorted prescription pills.

METRICH Commander Lt. Jason Bammann stated in the release that the collaboration between federal law enforcement agencies and the METRICH Enforcement Unit continues to have a positive impact on intercepting illegal drugs coming into the Mansfield and Richland County communities.

In addition to NOVFTF, METRICH was assisted by the Ohio Highway Patrol Special Response Team (OSP-SRT), the Mansfield Division of Police, and The Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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