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MEDIA RELEASE

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Operation Snake Eyes

Subject: Two Arrested for Conducting Bookmaking Operation

The Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation (MBI) in conjunction with the Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco (ABT) has made arrests as a result of an investigation into a sports gambling bookmaking operation, based out of Asian themed businesses located in the Mills Avenue/Colonial Drive area.

Evidence collected by agents with the MBI Vice/Organized Crime Section reflected that **Dung Ngoc Nguyen** acted as the head of a book making organization. The MBI investigation began when a complaint was made that indicated threats of violence were being used by a bookmaker to collect unpaid gambling debts.

Beginning in November 2007, an MBI undercover agent began placing a series of sports bets with **Dung Ngoc Nguyen**, who then directed the MBI undercover agent to deal with **Hau Tan Thai** who identified himself as the owner of the business **Café Chot Nho**. **Hau Tan Thai** then met with the MBI undercover agent and also received money for losing wagers and paid money for winnings wagers. The MBI undercover agent was also directed by **Dung Ngoc Nguyen** to make payments or pick up winnings at **Hong Kong Billiards**. Sports bets were placed with **Dung Ngoc Nguyen** up until the recent Super Bowl.

Arrest warrants were obtained for both **Dung Ngoc Nguyen** and **Hau Tan Thai** for the crimes of **Racketeering**, F.S. 895.03, **Bookmaking**, F.S. 849.25, **Receiving Money Bets for a Game of Chance or Skill**, F.S. 849.14, and the **Unlawful Use of a Two Way Communication Device**, F.S. 934.215. If you have any questions please contact MBI Vice/Organized Crime Section Commander Paul Zambouros at (407) 468-7347.

The Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation is a multi-agency Narcotics, Vice and Organized Crime Law Enforcement Task Force assigned to Orange and Osceola Counties. The member agencies of MBI are the State Attorney of the Ninth Judicial Circuit; Sheriff of Orange County; Orlando Police Department; Winter Park Police Department; Apopka Police Department; Ocoee Police Department, University of Central Florida Police Department; Sheriff of Osceola County; Florida Department of Law Enforcement; United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement; United States Drug Enforcement Administration, United States Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Postal Inspection Service, and the United States Secret Service.