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Regional Editor: Mat

14 plead guilty in Whitehall cocaine en- ring ease

By Matthew Roy
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ALBANY — Fourteen people, including four former corrections officers, pleaded guilty to various narcotics charges in district court Monday in connection with a cocaine ring allegedly run by former Whitehall tavern owner David J. Lindsay.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John J. McCann said that additional suspects would also enter guilty pleas, and that the suspects had agreed to testify against Lindsay in his upcoming trial on cocaine charges.

The former guards, all of Whitehall, were Ronald Austin, 27, of 16 Potters St., John Mahar, 30, of Sciota Road, Vaughn Therrien, 23, of 129 Poultney St. and Charles LaCroix, 25, whose Whitehall address was not available. Therrien worked at the Washington Correctional Facility and the others were officers at the Great Meadow Correctional Facility in Comstock, according to a corrections department spokeswoman.

— Eight others pleaded guilty Monday before U.S. District Court Judge G. Cholakis to one count each of distributing cocaine. They were: Harold Currier, 26, of Whitehall; Robert Gobeloff, 37, of Elmwood Park, N.J.; Thomas Martin, 27, of Mahopac; Robert Martindale, 25, of Granville; Sheila Martin, 28, of Whitehall; Kay Rovelli, 23, of Whitehall; Kenneth Archambault, 26, of Whitehall, and Joseph Gordon, 23, of Whitehall. They were all released on their own recognizance.

Two others pleaded guilty to one count

each of distributing methamphetamine on May 11, 1989. They were Duane Oliver, 25, of Dresden, and Bruce Gordon, 31, of Whitehall. Both men were released on \$10,000 bonds.

All have agreed to testify against Lindsay, who formerly ran DT's Lounge in Whitehall, according to published reports. Most of the defendants once worked for Lindsay at the tavern.

Lindsay was charged with distributing cocaine in February 1989 after a lengthy investigation by the FBI, the federal Drug Enforcement Administration, Washington County District Attorney Investigators, and State Police.

He pleaded not guilty to the charges at his arraignment, but a federal magistrate found in February that Lindsay, a Vietnam veteran, was a threat to the community. He has been in the Albany County Jail since, and no date has yet been set for his trial.

If convicted, Lindsay could face up to 40 years in prison and \$2 million in fines.