



NEWS RELEASE

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WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIRD CO-DEFENDANT CONVICTED IN METRO METH CASE

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a third co-defendant pleaded guilty in federal court today for illegal distribution of a chemical used in the manufacture of methamphetamine.

Michael J. Armstrong, 50, who currently is incarcerated, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., this morning to conspiracy to distribute ephedrine, a chemical used in the manufacture of methamphetamine, between Dec. 30, 2002, and Jan. 28, 2003.

As a result of pleading guilty, **Armstrong** may face up to 20 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. His sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

Armstrong is one of several co-defendants to be charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Feb. 26, 2003, in Kansas City. Two other co-defendants also have been convicted and recently sentenced for their involvement in the conspiracy.

On June 6, 2003, **David J. Finney**, 25, of Archie, Mo., pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting others in possessing a large amount of ephedrine, knowing the chemical would be used to manufacture methamphetamine. As a result, he was sentenced to six years and three months in federal prison without parole.

Sara E. Jack, 21, of Archie, pleaded guilty to the same charge on May 8, 2003, admitting that she, too, possessed ephedrine knowing that it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine. She was sentenced to two years in federal prison without parole.

Finney and **Jack** were originally charged in a criminal complaint filed in federal court on Jan. 29, 2003, in Kansas City, following the area's largest seizure of a meth ingredient.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the criminal complaint, **Finney** and **Jack** were found in possession of the methamphetamine ingredient after law enforcement officers were called to a disturbance at a room at the Belton Holiday Inn Express Motel. At that time, law enforcement officers discovered 19 bags and a backpack containing ephedrine in **Finney's** and **Jack's** motel room.

Further searches of **Finney's** and **Jack's** vehicle and residence revealed a plastic tub marked "Albertson's Simply Clean laundry detergent," which also contained ephedrine.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney W. Brent Powell. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, City of Belton, Mo., Police Department, Cass County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Cass County Prosecutor's Office.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow