



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs (816) 426-4220 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROJECT CEASEFIRE
**KC, RAYTOWN MEN SENTENCED FOR VIOLATING
FEDERAL FIREARM LAWS**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City man and a Raytown man were sentenced in federal court today in separate and unrelated cases of violating federal firearms laws.

* **Phillip E. Boose**, 22, of Kansas City, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this afternoon to 20 years in federal prison without parole.

On May 30, 2003, **Boose** was convicted of being a felon in possession of ammunition by a jury in the U.S. District Court in Kansas City. The jury found **Boose** guilty of being in possession of .32 caliber rounds of ammunition on Dec. 31, 2002. Under federal law, Graves explained, possession of any firearm or ammunition by a felon is illegal. **Boose** has five prior 2000 criminal felony convictions, including three for sale of a controlled substance, one for possession of a controlled substance and one for trafficking.

Boose was arrested for possessing ammunition on Dec. 31, 2002, when law enforcement officers observed him driving his vehicle over the center line of a roadway near 59th Street and South 71 Highway. Upon stopping the vehicle, Graves said, **Boose** fled his pickup truck across the highway. With the assistance of a police helicopter, law enforcement officers were able to follow **Boose** until he entered a residence at 6018 Agnes St. He was found hiding under a bed at that residence. **Boose** was then placed under arrest for the traffic charges and during a custodial search law enforcement officers found the ammunition on his person.

Boose was originally charged with being a felon in possession of ammunition in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Jan. 21, 2003.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess Michaelsen and Special

Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael J. Hunt. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department.

* **Brian S. Wright**, 33, of Raytown, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., this morning to one year and 11 months in federal prison without parole.

On Jan. 24, 2003, **Wright** pleaded guilty to unlawful possession of a firearm. He admitted that he was in possession of a Colt .357 caliber revolver on April 4, 2002, in Raytown. Under federal law, Graves explained, possession of any firearm or ammunition by a felon is illegal. **Wright** has criminal felony convictions for car theft, assault and unlawful use of a weapon.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. It was investigated by the Raytown, Mo., Police Department, the Jackson County Drug Task Force, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms for federal prosecution. Project Ceasefire has resulted in federal charges against 491 defendants, and convictions against 415 of those defendants, including 389 who pleaded guilty and 26 who were convicted at trial. A total of 361 of the 415 convicted defendants have been sentenced, and 54 currently await sentencing hearings.

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