



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NITRO UPDATE
**SPICKARD FELON SENTENCED
FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Spickard, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for being a felon in possession of a firearm. The case marks additional progress under Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative, and was investigated by the NITRO task force.

David E. Briegel, 49, of Spickard, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this morning to two years in federal prison without parole.

On April 10, 2003, **Briegel** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Briegel** admitted to possessing a Mossberg .22 caliber rifle, a Savage 30-30 caliber rifle, a Harrington and Richardson .410 shotgun, a Marlin .22 caliber rifle, a Stevens 12-gauge shotgun, a Remington .243 caliber rifle with three rounds of ammunition, and a Winchester 30-30 caliber rifle with eight rounds of ammunition on Nov. 27, 2002. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Briegel** has a 1998 criminal felony conviction for driving while intoxicated.

Briegel was initially charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in a criminal complaint filed on Jan. 15, 2003, in Kansas City. The criminal complaint was later replaced by an indictment that was returned by a federal grand jury on Jan. 28, 2003, in Kansas City.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Linda L. Sybrant. It was investigated by the NITRO task force, the Northwest Missouri Team Response Operation. NITRO is a joint law enforcement effort by the United States Attorney's Office and federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in the 16-county northwest Missouri region.

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 459 defendants, and convictions against 390 of those defendants, including 366 who pleaded guilty and 24 who were convicted at trial. A total of 336 of the 390 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