



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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JULY 9, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BELTON MAN CHARGED WITH ILLEGAL DRUG, FIREARM CRIMES

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Belton, Mo., man was indicted by a federal grand jury today for possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine and illegal possession of a firearm.

Douglas Ryan Caruthers, 19, of Belton, Mo., was charged in a two-count indictment returned today by a federal grand jury meeting in Kansas City.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Caruthers** knowingly possessed with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine on June 18, 2003.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Caruthers** was in possession of a Victor .38 caliber stainless steel revolver, a Norinco SKS assault rifle and a Leinad Tech-Nine 9 mm assault weapon during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime on June 18, 2003.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David DeTar Newbert. It was investigated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the Belton, Mo., Police Department.

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