



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NITRO UPDATE
**CHILLICOTHE, MO., MAN SENTENCED
FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Chillicothe, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for being a felon in possession of a firearm. Graves said the case is the result of work completed by the NITRO task force.

Joshua E. Craig, 26, of Chillicothe, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this morning to three years and 10 months in federal prison without parole.

On Aug. 15, 2003, **Craig** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Craig** admitted that he was in possession of a Mossberg 20 gauge shotgun on June 1, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Craig** has a 1996 criminal felony conviction for property damage.

He was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on June 18, 2003, in Kansas City.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelsen. The case was investigated by the NITRO Task Force, the Daviess County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Livingston County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. NITRO is the Northwest Missouri Interagency Team Response Operation, a joint law enforcement effort by the United States Attorney's Office and federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in the 16-county region.

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

