



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NITRO UPDATE
**TWO GALLATIN MEN SENTENCED FOR CONSPIRING
TO MANUFACTURE METH**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two Gallatin, Mo., men were sentenced in federal court today for conspiring to manufacture methamphetamine. The sentences, Graves said, are the result of work completed by the NITRO task force.

James E. Hershberger, 25, and **Billie L. Asher**, 31, both of Gallatin, Mo., were sentenced in separate appearances before U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this morning. **Hershberger** was sentenced to two years and 11 months in federal prison without parole. **Asher** was sentenced to 20 months in federal prison without parole.

Hershberger and **Asher** each pleaded guilty to their roles in the conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine between Aug. 17, 2002, and Nov. 2, 2002. **Hershberger** and **Asher** both admitted that they assisted in the methamphetamine manufacturing process and supplied equipment and precursors for manufacturing methamphetamine, Graves said, in exchange for receiving methamphetamine.

Three co-defendants have already been sentenced and one co-defendants has pleaded guilty and awaits sentencing.

* **Lisa R. Carnahan**, 39, of Winston, Mo., was sentenced on July 30, 2003, to seven years in federal prison without parole. On May 23, 2003, **Carnahan** pleaded guilty to conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine between Aug. 17, 2003, and Nov. 2, 2003. By pleading guilty, she admitted that she assisted in the manufacture of approximately 34.4 grams of methamphetamine and that she supplied equipment and precursors for the manufacture of methamphetamine.

* **Marvin L. Archer**, 32, of Gallatin, Mo., was sentenced on July 30, 2003, to five years in federal prison without parole. On April 23, 2003, **Archer** pleaded guilty to conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine between Aug. 17, 2002, and Nov. 2, 2002. By pleading guilty, **Archer** admitted that he assisted in the manufacture of approximately 34.4 grams of methamphetamine and supplied precursor materials for the manufacture of methamphetamine.

* **Teresa A. Swigert**, 44, of Winston, Mo., was sentenced on July 29, 2003, to five years and 10 months in federal prison without parole. On May 2, 2003, **Swigert** pleaded guilty to her role in a conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine between Aug. 17, 2002, and Nov. 2, 2002.

* **Christie L. Phillips**, 33, of Gallatin, pleaded guilty on May 2, 2003, to conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine and awaits sentencing.

All of the defendants were charged in an indictment returned under seal by a federal grand jury on Jan. 7, 2003, in Kansas City. The indictment was later unsealed and made public upon the arrests and appearance of several co-defendants.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess Michaelson. The case was investigated by NITRO, 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. Also involved were the Daviess County Sheriff's Department and the Gallatin, 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