



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROJECT CEASEFIRE
TWO DEFENDANTS SENTENCED
FOR VIOLATING FEDERAL FIREARMS LAWS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two defendants were sentenced in federal court today in separate and unrelated cases for violating federal firearms laws. The cases mark additional progress under Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

***Ardell W. Hooker**, 28, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this morning to four years in federal prison without parole.

On Jan. 9, 2003, **Hooker** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Hooker** admitted that he was in possession of a Browning semi-automatic .22 caliber pistol on Nov. 13, 2002. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Hooker** has two 1998 criminal felony convictions for possession of a controlled substance and unlawful use of a weapon.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce E. Clark. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

***Christopher D. Homan**, 25, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this afternoon to two years and nine in federal prison without parole.

On Jan. 24, 2003, **Homan** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Homan** admitted that he was in possession of a Raven .25 caliber handgun and an Imez .380 caliber handgun on April 22, 2002. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Homan** has a 1998 criminal felony conviction for forgery in Clay County, Mo., and a 1998 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Linda L. Sybrant. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

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 420 defendants, and convictions against 347 of those defendants, including 324 who pleaded guilty and 23 who were convicted at trial. A total of 304 of the 347 convicted defendants have been sentenced, and 43 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