



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COLUMBIA, MO., MAN SENTENCED FOR METH, STOLEN FIREARM

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Columbia man was sentenced in federal court today for manufacturing methamphetamine and being in possession of a stolen firearm.

Jesse Allen Howe, 23, of Columbia, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this morning to 12 years and seven months in federal prison without parole. **Howe** was returned to state custody, Graves explained, and will serve the federal sentence following the completion of two state sentences from cases in Henry County and Hickory County.

On April 18, 2003, **Howe** pleaded guilty to a federal information that charges him with manufacturing methamphetamine and being in possession of a stolen firearm. Under the terms of that plea agreement, the government moved to dismiss an indictment returned on Oct. 4, 2002, and instead charge **Howe** by information.

A Callaway County, Mo., Sheriff's Deputy encountered **Howe** while responding to a report of possible drug activity in Mark Twain National Forest on April 16, 2002, Graves said. **Howe** was working under the hood of his car, which was stuck in a ditch. The deputy searched a backpack in the front passenger seat of the vehicle that contained a number of items used to manufacture methamphetamine. The deputy also conducted a pat-search of **Howe**, recovering a black film canister containing methamphetamine.

As the deputy placed him under arrest, Graves said, **Howe** wrestled free and ran from the scene. During a search of the area near **Howe's** car, items consistent with a clandestine methamphetamine laboratory were found.

Later that day, Graves said, a blue Chevrolet pickup truck was stolen from a New Bloomfield residence. Among the items in the truck was a Marlin .22 caliber rifle.

On April 28, 2002, the deputy confronted **Howe** as he was leaving the Wal-Mart store in Columbia. **Howe** tried to flee from officers, Graves said, but was taken into custody. In a search of the trailer at Columbia Regency Trailer Court where **Howe** was staying, officers found items used to manufacture methamphetamine and the rifle that had been stolen.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jim Lynn. It was investigated by the Columbia, Mo., Police Department, MUSTANG (Mid-Missouri Unified Strike Team and Narcotics Group), the U.S. Forest Service, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Callaway County Sheriff's Department, and the Boone County Sheriff's 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