



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**OCTOBER 21, 2003**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE  
**500<sup>TH</sup> FELON INDICTED FOR POSSESSING FIREARM  
IN KC METRO AREA**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that the 500<sup>th</sup> felon in possession of a firearm has been indicted under Project Ceasefire, the district’s on-going anti-crime initiative that was launched in 1999.

“As Project Ceasefire reaches this benchmark in its prosecution of felons in possession of firearms, we continue to concentrate on the task at hand - to ensure the safety of our community by keeping repeat offenders off the streets,” Graves said. “It is our goal to pick up the pace in months and years ahead, and soon enough we will be marking the 1,000<sup>th</sup> felon in possession charge.”

Since its inception, the cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission has resulted in federal charges against 503 felons who illegally possess firearms, which is an average of more than 125 indictments each year. The program also has resulted in convictions against 426 of those defendants, including 400 who pleaded guilty and 26 who were convicted at trial. A total of 371 of the 426 convicted defendants have been sentenced, and 55 currently await sentencing hearings.

“Project Ceasefire has been recognized nationally as not only one of the first anti-gun violence programs but also one of the most successful,” Graves said. “This program is helping to get the message across to felons that they will spend time in prison if they are caught with a gun.”

Five felons were charged in indictments returned by a federal grand jury this afternoon in Kansas City.

\* **Gary Kitchen**, 23, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Kitchen** was in possession of a Norinco Mac 90 assault rifle on Oct. 7, 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. **Kitchen** has three 1998 criminal felony convictions for sale of a controlled substance and trafficking. He also has a 2001 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael J. Hunt. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

\* **Mark N. Concienne**, 37, of Blue Springs, Mo., was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Concienne** was in possession of a Romarms SKS assault rifle on Jan. 31, 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. **Concienne** has a 1990 criminal felony conviction for distribution of cocaine.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David A. Barnes. It was investigated by the Jackson County, Mo., Drug Task Force and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

\* **George S. Schrand, Jr.**, 21, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Schrand** was in possession of a Smith and Wesson .357 Magnum caliber revolver on Oct. 17, 2002. 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. **Schrand** has three 2002 criminal felony convictions for felony theft, felony obstruction of justice, assault and battery.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David A. Barnes. It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

\* **Larry J. Cunningham**, 53, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Cunningham** was in possession of a Ruger 9 mm handgun on Sept. 27, 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. **Cunningham** has a 1970 criminal felony conviction for statutory rape, a 1980 criminal felony conviction for simple assault, a 1981 criminal felony conviction for disorderly conduct, a 2003 criminal felony conviction for carrying a concealed weapon and a criminal felony conviction for auto theft.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

\* **Eric L. Miles**, 26, of Kansas City, Mo., was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Miles** was in possession of a Bryco Arms .380 caliber semi-automatic pistol on Oct. 2, 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. **Miles** has a 2001 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance, a 2000 criminal felony conviction for unlawful use of a weapon and a 1999 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David A. Barnes. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictments 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.

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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](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)