



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FEBRUARY 24, 2003
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THREE MEN CHARGED IN COCAINE CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that three men have been charged in federal court with conspiracy to distribute cocaine.

John L. McMurray, 44, of Kansas City, Mo.; and **William Brandt**, 32, and **Ronald Andra McMurray**, 43, both of Topeka, Kan., were charged with conspiracy to distribute five kilograms or more of powder cocaine between Jan. 20 and Feb. 20, 2003, according to a criminal complaint filed in federal court in Kansas City on Feb. 21, 2003. **John** and **Ronald McMurray** are brothers.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the criminal complaint, **John McMurray** was arrested after a search warrant was executed at his residence at 2221 Oakley, Kansas City, Mo., on Feb. 20, 2003. Law enforcement officers conducting the search found seven bricks wrapped in black tape and four clear plastic vacuum-sealed packages containing a total of approximately 12 kilograms of cocaine, as well as \$19,720 in U.S. currency.

According to that affidavit, **Brandt** was arrested by a Kansas State trooper the same day, shortly after he left **John McMurray's** residence. While conducting a search of **Brandt's** vehicle, says the affidavit, the trooper found a sack containing approximately 2.7 kilograms of cocaine. **Brandt** was allegedly paid \$500 to drive from Topeka to Kansas City to pick up the cocaine, then deliver it to **Ronald McMurray** after returning to Topeka.

Graves cautioned that the charge contained in the complaint is simply an accusation, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charge must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Catherine Connelly. The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department, the Kansas State Highway Patrol, and the Shawnee 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