



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE  
**VIOLENT CAREER OFFENDER SENTENCED  
FOR ILLEGALLY POSSESSING A FIREARM**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Princeton, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for being a felon in possession of a firearm. The sentence marks the culmination of another case prosecuted under Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

**Steven L. Mills**, 44, of Princeton, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this morning to eight years and four months in federal prison without parole.

On Dec. 2, 2002, **Mills** pleaded guilty to an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on June 25, 2002. By pleading guilty, **Mills** admitted that he was in possession of an Ithaca 20 gauge shotgun, a Remington rifle, two Savage 300 rifles, a Remington 30-06 rifle, a Stevens .22 caliber rifle, a British 303 caliber rifle and a Strum Ruger .223 caliber rifle on May 23, 2002. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to possess any firearm or ammunition. **Mills** has a 1982 criminal felony conviction for aggravated rape in Texas and two 1995 criminal felony convictions for burglary.

**Mills** was originally charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in a criminal complaint filed on May 30, 2002, in Kansas City.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Linda L. Sybrant. The case was investigated by the Mercer County, Mo., Sheriff's Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

**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 432 defendants, and convictions against 360 of those defendants, including 337 who pleaded guilty and 23 who were convicted at trial. A total of 318 of the 360 convicted defendants have been sentenced, and 42 currently await sentencing hearings.

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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)

