



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO NORTHWEST MISSOURI MEN PLEAD GUILTY TO FEDERAL METH, FIREARM CHARGES

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a St. Joseph, Mo., man and a Mound City, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to violating federal narcotics and firearms laws.

Larry A. Pierce, 47, of Mound City, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this afternoon to possession of anhydrous ammonia, knowing that it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine, and being a felon in possession of a firearm.

By pleading guilty, Graves said, Pierce admitted that he was in possession of anhydrous ammonia on Feb. 1, 2002. **Pierce** also admitted that he was in possession of a Full Metal jacket .22/.45 caliber Derringer over-under double-barrel handgun on Nov. 29, 2001. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Pierce** has a 1997 criminal felony conviction for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

As a result of today's guilty plea, **Pierce** could be subject to a sentence of up to 10 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. His sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

Harvey E. Smith, Jr., 26, of St. Joseph, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this morning to possession of anhydrous ammonia, knowing that it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine.

As a result of today's guilty plea, **Smith** could be subject to a sentence of up to 10 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. His sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled

after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

Co-defendant **Mark E. Schenecker**, 42, of St. Joseph, Mo., was sentenced on July 29, 2003 to seven years and three months in federal prison without parole. On Jan. 15, 2003, **Schenecker** pleaded guilty to possession of anhydrous ammonia, knowing that it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine.

Co-defendant **Joseph B. Goin, Jr.**, 44, of St. Joseph, Mo., was sentenced on May 1, 2003, to nine months in federal prison without parole. On Jan. 9, 2003, **Goin** pleaded guilty to intentionally maintaining a place of residence for the purpose of manufacturing methamphetamine. By pleading guilty, **Goin** admitted that from Nov. 1, 2001, until Feb. 2, 2002, he housed a methamphetamine lab at his residence St. Joseph.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael S. Oliver. The case was investigated by the Buchanan County Drug Strike Force with the assistance of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

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