



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KC MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ATTEMPTING TO MANUFACTURE METH

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a Kansas City, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to his role in a conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine.

Michael D. Sanders, 43, of Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this afternoon to attempting to manufacture methamphetamine.

By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Sanders** admitted that he was operating a clandestine methamphetamine laboratory in two hotel rooms rented at the American Inn in Independence, Mo., on Jan. 19, 2000. As law enforcement officers approached **Sanders** in one of the hotel rooms, Graves said, he bolted to the second, attached hotel room and flushed some methamphetamine-making chemicals down the toilet. While searching **Sanders** upon his arrest, officers found methamphetamine on his person.

Four additional co-defendants have already pleaded guilty to the indictment that was returned by a federal grand jury on Feb. 25, 2003.

* **Darcy E. Harris**, 38, of Stockton, Mo., pleaded guilty on July 22, 2003, to conspiracy to manufacture and distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine. **Harris** has been arrested in conjunction with three separate seizures of operational methamphetamine laboratories related to the federal indictment, Graves said. **Harris** admitted that she manufactured methamphetamine, provided chemicals for methamphetamine manufacturing, and sold methamphetamine.

* **Tommy R. Smith**, 28, of Sibley, Mo. pleaded guilty on July 22, 2003, to attempting to manufacture five grams or more of methamphetamine. By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Smith** admitted that he was operating a clandestine methamphetamine laboratory in a hotel room rented at the Super 8 Motel in Grandview, Mo., on Nov. 12, 2002.

* **Sean C. Postpichal**, 27, of Independence, Mo., pleaded guilty on July 21, 2003, to conspiracy to manufacture and distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine between Oct. 1, 1999 and Feb. 25, 2003. By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Postpichal** admitted that he had been arrested in conjunction with five separate seizures of operational methamphetamine laboratories.

* **David J. Hoerl, Jr.**, 38, of Raytown, Mo., pleaded guilty on June 25, 2003, to maintaining a place of residence for the purpose of manufacturing, distributing and storing methamphetamine.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jeff Valenti and Michael S. Oliver. The case was investigated by the Jackson County Drug Task Force, the Independence, Mo., Police Department, the Lee's Summit, Mo., Police Department and the Kansas City Metropolitan Drug Task Force.

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