



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JONESBURG MAN SENTENCED FOR DISTRIBUTING HUNDREDS OF POUNDS OF MARIJUANA

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Jonesburg, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for distributing hundreds of pounds of marijuana in central Missouri and Arizona.

William A. Sanders, 57, of Jonesburg, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this afternoon to three years and one month in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Sanders** to pay a \$10,000 fine and to forfeit to the United States \$195,540 that was seized at the time of his arrest.

On April 18, 2003, **Sanders** pleaded guilty to conspiring to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute more than 100 kilograms of marijuana in the state of Arizona and in Jasper, Miller and Morgan counties in Missouri from as early as December 2001 until July 19, 2002.

Two co-defendants have also pleaded guilty to the same charge. **Angela R. Henry**, 26, of Mesa, Arizona, was sentenced to five years of probation on Aug. 1, 2003. **Gregory Paul Allen**, 48, of Barnett, Mo., pleaded guilty on April 18, 2003, and awaits sentencing.

On July 19, 2002, Graves said, a Missouri State Highway Patrol trooper was driving an unmarked vehicle eastbound on Interstate 44 in Jasper County, Mo., when he came up behind a gold Dodge minivan being driven by **Henry**. Because the van appeared to be speeding, and there were no uniformed patrol vehicles available, the trooper followed the van until it exited off I-44 at Highway 37 and drove to a gas station / convenience store.

The trooper approached the van, Graves said, and walked to the front passenger window since the driver had gone into the store. When the man rolled down his window, the trooper smelled a strong odor of what he believed to be marijuana, Graves said. The trooper then identified himself to **Henry** and to the passenger. Opening the back of the van, the trooper found

20 bundles of marijuana inside three boxes and four bags, which weighed approximately 337 pounds.

Graves explained that **Henry** agreed to make a controlled delivery of the marijuana. On July 19, 2002, law enforcement officers accompanied her to the Lake of the Ozarks area, where she was followed by numerous police officers as she made the delivery. After meeting at the hotel, **Sanders** led **Henry** to **Allen's** residence in Barnett, Mo. Once they arrived at **Allen's** residence, officers converged on the location and arrested the defendants. Officers also located an additional 24 pounds of marijuana and approximately \$192,000 in **Allen's** garage.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Lawrence E. Miller. It was investigated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Missouri Highway Patrol, MUSTANG (Mid-Missouri Unified Strike Team and Narcotics Group), and the East Central 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