



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

MAY 16, 2003
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSTANG ROUND-UP
COLUMBIA WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DISTRIBUTING COCAINE

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Columbia, Mo., woman pleaded guilty in federal court today to distributing cocaine.

Deidrea Lachelle Scott, also known as Deidrea Lachelle Freelon, 33, of Columbia, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this morning to distributing cocaine on Oct. 17, 2000, in Boone County, Mo.

Scott was initially charged with distributing cocaine in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Nov. 8, 2002, in Jefferson City. She was arrested following a round-up of arrest warrants served by the MUSTANG Task Force (the Mid-Missouri Unified Strike Team and Narcotics Group) on Dec. 17, 2002.

Scott's case grew out of a large-scale investigation into a scheme to distribute large quantities of powder and crack cocaine and launder drug money in mid-Missouri. Fifteen defendants were indicted by a federal grand jury in that conspiracy, which is alleged to have brought more than 100 kilos of cocaine into the Columbia, Mo., area between January 1998 and September 21, 2001.

The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney C. Douglas Shull. It was investigated by MUSTANG, a multi-jurisdictional law enforcement task force comprised of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Boone County Sheriff's Office, and municipal police departments in Columbia, Booneville, Fulton, and Jefferson City.

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