



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**JANUARY 29, 2003**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**OPERATION COCAINE COWBOYS**  
**FOUR CO-DEFENDANTS SENTENCED**  
**ON DRUG CHARGES, INVOLVEMENT IN COCAINE RING**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that four co-defendants were sentenced for their role in a conspiracy to distribute cocaine and methamphetamine in Jasper County, Mo.

The four defendants are part of Operation Cocaine Cowboys, which charged a total of 36 federal defendants with illegal drug trafficking and firearms sales in Southwest Missouri.

**Danna S. Smith**, 30, of Carthage, Mo., was sentenced Jan. 28, 2002 by U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr to one year and six months in prison without parole. On Oct. 21, 2002, **Smith** pleaded guilty to conspiring to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine from Nov. 14, 1999 to Nov. 25, 2001.

**Amy Reyes**, 33, of Anderson, Mo., was sentenced Jan. 28, 2002, by U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr to two years in prison without parole. On Oct. 21, 2002, **Reyes** pleaded guilty to conspiring to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine from Nov. 14, 1999 to Nov. 25, 2001.

**Deanna L. Brady**, 23, of Carthage, Mo., was sentenced Jan. 28, 2002, by U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr to one year in prison without parole. On Oct. 16, 2002, **Brady** pleaded guilty to intentionally distributing cocaine on Nov. 22, 1999.

**Caasimoro G. Gonzales**, 58, of Carthage, Mo., was sentenced Jan. 27, 2002, by U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr to nine years in prison without parole. On Oct. 10, 2002, **Gonzales** pleaded guilty to conspiring to distribute cocaine. By pleading guilty, **Gonzales** also agreed to the federal forfeiture of \$32,000 in proceeds obtained from that criminal violation.

**Pedro C. Baldovinos**, 38, of Joplin, Mo., was scheduled to be sentenced Jan. 28, 2002,

by U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr but failed to appear in court and now is being sought as a fugitive. On Sept. 26, 2002, **Baldovinos** pleaded guilty to conspiring to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine between Nov. 14, 1999 and Nov. 25, 2001.

These defendants are among 17 co-defendants in a 52-count indictment in the case of United States v. Caasimoro G. Gonzales, et al. Graves explained that this case is part of a series of federal indictments and federal criminal complaints filed in January and February 2002 as a result of the 27-month, multi-agency investigation into illegal drug trafficking and firearms sales.

Operation Cocaine Cowboy focused on an organization of individuals who were allegedly responsible for the delivery and distribution of multi-kilogram quantities of cocaine, methamphetamine, marijuana and other drugs from sources in California, Texas and Guatemala. As charged in a series of federal indictments and federal criminal complaints, Graves explained, 36 federal defendants allegedly distributed illegal narcotics, primarily in Jasper County, but also in at least four other Southwest Missouri counties (Christian, Greene, Lawrence and Webster) and elsewhere. Graves said that undercover officers made numerous purchases of illegal drugs and weapons as part of the investigation. In addition to the federal defendants, about 26 other individuals, including adults and juveniles, face a variety of state charges in related cases.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Randall D. Eggert. Operation Cocaine Cowboys was investigated by officers from the Missouri States Highway Patrol and the Combined Ozarks Multijurisdictional Enforcement Team (COMET), in cooperation with numerous other law enforcement agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, Jasper County Drug Task Force, Mid-States Organized Crime Information Center (MOCIC), and the Carthage Police Department. Assistance to Operation Cocaine Cowboys was provided by Greene, Jasper and Stone counties' sheriff's departments, the Joplin, Springfield, Oronogo and Webb City police departments and the U.S. Marshal's Service.

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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  
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