



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRINGFIELD MAN SENTENCED FOR DISTRIBUTING METH, ORDERED TO FORFEIT \$81,544 AND HIS TRUCK

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a Springfield man was sentenced in federal court today for conspiring to distribute more than 500 grams of methamphetamine.

James Michael Vest, 33, of Springfield, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr this morning to seven years and three months in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Vest** to forfeit \$81,544.08 and his 1997 Chevrolet Silverado truck, which are assets acquired from the crime.

On Dec. 6, 2002, **Vest** pleaded guilty to conspiring to distribute more than 500 grams of methamphetamine. By pleading guilty, **Vest** admitted to distributing the substance from as early as March 1, 2001, until Sept. 19, 2002.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Randall D. Eggert. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Greene County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Springfield Police Department.

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