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FEBRUARY 27, 2003 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

18 EASTERN JACKSON COUNTY RESIDENTS INDICTED IN METH CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that 18 Eastern Jackson County residents have been indicted by a federal grand jury in a conspiracy to manufacture and distribute at least 500 grams of methamphetamine.

Charged in an 18-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City on Feb. 25, 2003, were the following defendants: **Douglas W. Williams**, 49, **Tammie L. Avelyn**, 42, **Sean C. Postpichal**, 26, **Amber G. Watson**, 23, **Eric C. Hood**, 36, **Teresa S. Hood**, 40, **Edward D. Miller**, Jr., 30, **William L. Pennington**, 42, **Troy L. Goetz**, 34, and **Robin L. Green**, 35, all of Independence, Mo.; **William R. Sands**, 33, and **David J. Hoerl**, Jr., 38, both of Raytown, Mo.; **Darcy E. Harris**, 38, of Stockton, Mo.; **Eric C. Koncher**, 36, of Blue Springs, Mo.; **Randall H. Olf**, 44, of Oak Grove, Mo.; **Tommy R. Smith**, 28, of Sibley, Mo.; **Brian V. Coen**, 26, of Sugar Creek, Mo.; and **Michael D. Sanders**, 42, of Kansas City, Mo. That indictment was originally sealed by the court, but was unsealed and made public today upon the arrests and initial court appearances of the defendants.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that all 18 of the co-defendants were involved in a conspiracy to manufacture and distribute 500 grams or more of methamphetamine between Oct. 1, 1999 and Feb. 25, 2003.

In addition to the conspiracy charge, the indictment also charges each defendant with the following additional counts:

Williams is also charged with one count of attempting to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine.

Harris is also charged with one count of attempting to manufacture methamphetamine;

one count of attempting to manufacture five grams or more of methamphetamine; one count of attempting to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine; one count of possession of pseudoephedrine for the purpose of manufacturing methamphetamine; and one count of maintaining a place at a Blue Springs motel for the purpose of manufacturing methamphetamine.

Avelyn is also charged with one count of attempting to manufacture methamphetamine; one count of attempting to manufacture five grams or more of methamphetamine; and two counts of attempting to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine.

Postpichal is also charged with one count of attempting to manufacture methamphetamine; two counts of attempting to manufacture five grams or more of methamphetamine; and one count of attempting to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine.

Sands is also charged with one count of attempting to manufacture methamphetamine; one count of attempting to manufacture five grams or more of methamphetamine; and one count of attempting to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine.

Watson is also charged with two counts of attempting to manufacture five grams or more of methamphetamine; and one count of attempting to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine.

Koncher is also charged with one count of attempting to manufacture methamphetamine and two counts of attempting to manufacture five grams or more of methamphetamine.

Olf is also charged with one count of attempting to manufacture five grams or more of methamphetamine.

Eric and **Teresa Hood** are each also charged with one count of maintaining a place in Independence for the purpose of manufacturing, distributing, and using methamphetamine.

Miller is also charged with one count of attempting to manufacture five grams or more of methamphetamine.

Smith is also charged with one count of attempting to manufacture five grams or more of methamphetamine.

Pennington is also charged with one count of attempting to manufacture five grams or more of methamphetamine.

Coen is also charged with one count of attempting to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine.

Sanders is also charged with one count of attempting to manufacture methamphetamine.

Goetz is also charged with one count of distributing methamphetamine.

Green is also charged with one count of distributing methamphetamine.

Hoerl is also charged with one count of maintaining a place in Raytown for the purpose of manufacturing, distributing, and using methamphetamine.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attomeys Jeff Valenti and Michael S. Oliver. The case was investigated by the Jackson County Drug Task Force with assistance from the police departments of Independence and Lee's Summit, 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