



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KC MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CONSPIRACY TO DISTRIBUTE COCAINE, PART OF MEXICO-U.S. DRUG PIPELINE

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man pleaded guilty today to his role in a conspiracy to distribute more than five kilograms of cocaine – which the government alleges was part of a larger, nationwide conspiracy to smuggle drugs from Mexico into the United States for distribution in the Kansas City, Mo., metropolitan area.

Kerriem O. Wilson, also known as “Woo-Soo,” 30, of Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Chief Judge Dean Whipple this morning to conspiring to distribute more than five kilograms of cocaine.

By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Wilson** also agreed to the forfeiture of property that was obtained through, and represents the proceeds of, the conspiracy to distribute cocaine. That property includes \$47,620 in cash, which was found at **Wilson’s** residence during the execution of a search warrant.

Wilson is among 38 defendants charged in federal court in Missouri and Kansas in five separate but related cases, Graves said, which were part of a nationwide operation last November resulting in federal charges against 135 defendants in several states and the Republic of Mexico. Graves explained that the conspiracy allegedly involved a large-scale drug organization originating in the Republic of Mexico, with drug supply lines through central California, which has supplied hundreds of kilograms of cocaine, methamphetamine, and marijuana to customers in several states, including Kansas and Missouri, since 1997.

This organization, Graves said, is believed to be involved in smuggling drugs from Central and South America into the United States, where their accomplices assisted in the distribution of the drugs to their subordinates and to lower-level dealers or brokers and their

subordinates, including **Wilson**.

As a result of **Wilson's** guilty plea, he may be subject to a sentence ranging from 17 years and six months in federal prison without parole, up to 21 years and 10 months in federal prison without parole. The sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled sometime after the completion of a presentence investigation by the U.S. Probation Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Charles E. Ambrose. The nationwide operation was coordinated by the Special Operations Division of the U.S. Department of Justice and the Drug Enforcement Administration. It was also investigated by Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Kansas City Metropolitan Methamphetamine Task Force, the I-35/I-70 Drug Task Force, and various police departments and county sheriffs' offices, including the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department, the Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department, the Johnson and Wyandotte County (Kansas) Sheriff's Departments, the Southern California Drug Task Force, and the Los Angeles High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force, and other federal and local law enforcement agencies.

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