



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KC MAN SENTENCED FOR ROLE IN COCAINE CONSPIRACY, 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 was sentenced today for 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,” 31, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Chief Judge Dean Whipple this afternoon to six years and eight months in federal prison without parole. The court also ordered **Wilson** to forfeit \$47,000 to the government, which represents the proceeds of the conspiracy to distribute cocaine and was found at his residence during the execution of a search warrant.

On Feb. 14, 2003, **Wilson** pleaded guilty to conspiring to distribute more than five kilograms of cocaine from November 1997 to November 2002, in Jackson County, Mo.

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**.

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