



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

APRIL 28, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NITRO UPDATE
**SAVANNAH MAN SENTENCED
FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Savannah, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for violating a federal firearms law. The case, part of the Project Ceasefire initiative, is the result of work conducted by the NITRO Task Force.

Donald D. Carpenter, 33, of Savannah, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this afternoon to two years and seven months in federal prison without parole.

On Jan. 10, 2003, **Carpenter** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Carpenter** admitted that he was in possession of a Remington 1100 shotgun and a Ruger Super Black Hawk .41 caliber revolver on Oct. 9, 2002. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Carpenter** has a 1995 criminal felony conviction in Buchanan County, Mo., for possession of a controlled substance and a 1985 criminal felony conviction in Buchanan County for second degree burglary.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Linda L. Sybrant. It was investigated by the NITRO Task Force, the Northwest Missouri Team Response Operation. NITRO is a joint law enforcement effort by the United States Attorney's Office and federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in the 16-county northwest Missouri region. The case also was investigated by the Maryville, Mo., Department of Public Safety and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms for federal prosecution. Project Ceasefire has resulted in

federal charges against 420 defendants, and convictions against 352 of those defendants, including 329 who pleaded guilty and 23 who were convicted at trial. A total of 310 of the 352 convicted defendants have been sentenced, and 42 currently await sentencing hearings.

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