

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOUR SOUTHERN MISSOURI MEN INDICTED FOR FEDERAL FIREARMS VIOLATIONS

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that four southern Missouri men were indicted by a federal grand jury today in separate and unrelated cases for violating federal firearms laws.

* **Timothy Jacobs**, 34, of Thayer, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury meeting in Springfield.

Today's indictment alleges that **Jacobs** was in possession of a Hi Point Firearms .380 caliber pistol and ammunition on March 24, 2003, in Oregon County, Mo. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Jacobs** has a 1993 criminal felony conviction for forgery in Oregon County, a 1993 criminal felony conviction for driving while intoxicated in Lawrence County, Mo., a 1993 criminal felony conviction for driving while intoxicated in Sharp County, Ark., and a 1994 criminal felony conviction for driving while intoxicated in Sharp County.

The case is being prosecuted by Deputy United States Attorney Michael A. Jones. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Oregon County, Mo., Sheriff's Office.

* Glenn Leask, 38, of Rogersville, Mo., was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury meeting in Springfield.

Today's indictment alleges that **Leask** was in possession of a Savage Arms .22 caliber rifle on April 7, 2002, in Greene County, Mo. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Leask** has a 1991 criminal felony conviction for tampering in the first degree in Greene County and a 1996 criminal felony conviction for driving while intoxicated in Greene County.

The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant United States Attorney James J. Kelleher. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Springfield, Mo., Police Department.

* Billy G. Hall, 22, of Verona, Mo., was charged with being an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury meeting in Springfield.

Today's indictment alleges that **Hall** was in possession of a Savage Arms .22 caliber rifle and a Norinco SKS 7.62 X 39 rifle on Jan. 10, 2003, in Lawrence County, Mo. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who is an unlawful user of a controlled substance to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition.

The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant United States Attorney Douglas D. Gaston. It was investigated by the Lawrence County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Brad L. Chambers**, 29, of Ava, Mo., was charged with being an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury meeting in Springfield.

Today's indictment alleges that **Chambers** was in possession of a Mossberg 12 gauge shotgun, a Marlin .22 caliber rifle, a Colt .22 caliber pistol and a Ruger 10/22 carbine .22 caliber rifle on May 5, 2003 in douglas County, Mo. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who is an unlawful user of a controlled substance to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition.

The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant United States Attorney Douglas D. Gaston. It was investigated by the Douglas County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the South Central Drug Task Force, the Ava, Mo., Police Department, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in today's indictments 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.

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