



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **FIVE DEFENDANTS ARRESTED ON DRUG CHARGES IN MUSTANG ROUND-UP**

**JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that five defendants, charged in separate cases related to illegal narcotics trafficking in Columbia and Boone County, are now in federal custody following a round-up of arrest warrants served by the MUSTANG Task Force.

**Deidrea Lachelle Scott**, also known as Deidrea Lachelle Freelon, 33; **James Peal**, 49; **Donald Ray Wallace**, 35, and **Donald Edward Matthews**, 49; all of Columbia, Mo., were arrested on December 17, 2002, by law enforcement officers working in conjunction with MUSTANG (the Mid-Missouri Unified Strike Team and Narcotics Group). **Dustin Joseph Watts**, 22, also of Columbia, Mo., surrendered to authorities this morning.

Although not charged as part of the same conspiracy, Graves explained, these cases grew out of a large-scale investigation into a scheme to distribute large quantities of powder and crack cocaine and launder drug money in mid-Missouri. Fifteen defendants were indicted by a federal grand jury in that conspiracy, which is alleged to have brought more than 100 kilos of cocaine into the Columbia, Mo., area between January 1998 and September 21, 2001.

In the course of that investigation, Graves said, a federal grand jury returned separate indictments against each of the defendants who were taken into custody. Those indictments, which were returned under seal, were made public today upon the arrest and initial court appearance of the defendants.

**Scott** was charged in a three-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Jefferson City on November 8, 2002. The indictment alleges that **Scott** distributed crack cocaine in Boone County on three separate occasions in 2002 – August 2, September 14, and October 17.

The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney C. Douglas Shull. It was

investigated by MUSTANG, a multi-jurisdictional law enforcement task force comprised of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Boone County Sheriff's Office, and municipal police departments in Columbia, Booneville, Fulton, and Jefferson City.

**Peal** was charged in a four-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Jefferson City on May 23, 2002. Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Peal** conspired with others to distribute crack cocaine in Boone County between May 1, 1999 and May 26, 1999. Count Two alleges that **Peal** possessed with intent to distribute cocaine in Columbia on May 24, 2001. Count Three of the federal indictment alleges that **Peal** was in possession with intent to distribute at least five grams of crack cocaine in Columbia on May 24, 2001. Count Four of the federal indictment alleges that **Peal** distributed crack cocaine in Columbia on May 24, 2001.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Anthony P. Gonzalez. It was investigated by MUSTANG.

**Wallace** was charged in a one-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Jefferson City on June 21, 2002. The indictment alleges that **Wallace** distributed five grams or more of crack cocaine in Boone County on March 21, 2001.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jim Lynn. It was investigated by MUSTANG.

**Matthews** was charged in a three-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Jefferson City on May 23, 2002. Counts One and Two of the federal indictment allege that **Matthews** distributed crack cocaine in Columbia on September 11, 2000 and on October 17, 2000. Count Three of the federal indictment alleges that **Matthews** distributed five grams or more of crack cocaine in Columbia on November 3, 2000.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jim Lynn. It was investigated by MUSTANG.

**Watts** was charged in a four-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Jefferson City on March 9, 2001. Counts One and Two of the federal indictment allege that **Watts** distributed and possessed with intent to distribute cocaine in Columbia on August 18, 2000 and on August 21, 2000. Count Three of the federal indictment alleges that **Watts** distributed and possessed with intent to distribute LSD in Columbia on August 21, 2000. Count Four of the federal indictment alleges that **Watts** possessed with intent to distribute Ecstasy in Columbia on August 27, 2000.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Anthony P. Gonzalez. It was investigated by MUSTANG.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the 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.

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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](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)