

# JACKSON COUNTY DRUG TASK FORCE



2009

# ANNUAL REPORT

# **THE JACKSON COUNTY DRUG TASK FORCE ANNUAL REPORT 2009**

The County of Jackson has approximately 454 square miles. The JCDF primarily focuses on the eastern and southern portions of the county, which includes all suburban jurisdictions and unincorporated areas.

JCDF is a voluntary law enforcement organization comprised of fourteen local and county agencies. These are identified and consist of representation from the Cities of Grain Valley, Greenwood, Lake Lotawana, Lone Jack, Buckner, Oak Grove, Sugar Creek, Blue Springs, Grandview, Independence, Lee's Summit, and Raytown, and the Missouri State Highway Patrol and Jackson County Sheriff's Department. The purpose of the JCDF is to provide a combined and unified response to the drug and narcotics problem as it exists in eastern Jackson County, Missouri. This eastern area represents approximately 52% of the population in Jackson County.

While JCDF participates all federal, state and local Kansas City area law enforcement agencies its primary investigative mission and focus continues toward the outlying areas of the county which are not adequately serviced by other agencies.

The existing resources provided to the Task Force includes: The Officer-in-Charge, 14 sworn officers, one property/evidence officer, one chemist (assigned to Independence Crime Lab), two support staff, one legal advisor (contractual) and one fiscal officer (contractual).

## **HISTORY**

In 1986, the Jackson County, Missouri Drug Task Force (JCDF) was organized as a multi-jurisdictional investigative initiative in response to an emerging drug problem within the county. Throughout the 1980's, drug trafficking and an active drug culture were a part of daily life throughout Kansas City, Missouri and much of Jackson County. Illicit drugs, such as crack cocaine, methamphetamine and PCP were openly traded on street corners. Drug houses and methamphetamine labs were literally springing up throughout our County overnight. During its initial years the JCDF was funded through private donations and a grant.

In 1990 Jackson County residents approved a new one-quarter of one-percent anti-drug sales tax which would later become known as the Community Backed Anti-Drug Tax (COMBAT). The tax would support a broad based attack on drugs and drug related crimes. One of the enforcement initiatives COMBAT would fund was the JCDF.

The tax was renewed for a seven-year period in 1995, 2004 and again in 2009. The COMBAT tax provided the JCDF with an adjusted budget of \$1,825,477 in 2009.

The JCDF operates under the direction of an Executive Board comprised of representatives from fourteen jurisdictions in eastern Jackson County. Eight of these agencies supply manpower for the Task Force.

## **2009**

During 2009 the JCDF served fifty two (52) search warrants, conducted eighty seven (87) Narcotics purchases, attempted nineteen (19) narcotics purchases conducted ninety-nine (99) Knock and Talk operations and made seven (8) presentations to groups.

## **STATISTICS**

### JCDF Statistical Accomplishments

2009

<i>Cases presented:</i>	<i>State</i>	49
	<i>Federal</i>	12
<i>Investigative cases opened</i>		165
<i>Investigative cases closed</i>		134
<i>Methamphetamine labs processed</i>		9
<i>Federal convictions:</i>	<i>Incarcerations</i>	25
	<i>Probations</i>	0
<i>State convictions:</i>	<i>Incarcerations</i>	6
	<i>Probations</i>	33
<i>Federal incarceration rate</i>		100%

State incarceration rate

19%

*Controlled substances seized and purchased:*

2009	Marijuana	Metham- phetamine	Cocaine powder	Cocaine Crack	Ecstasy	LSD and Mushrooms	Heroin	Firearm Long guns	Firearm Hand guns
Pounds	137	.9	1.6	0	0	0			
Ounces	2191	14	20	1.57	0	0	0		
Grams	62101	394.57	565.88	44.59	10551	0	.35	31	39
\$Value*	\$434,707	\$39,457	\$56,588	\$4,459	\$105,510	0	\$100	\$6,200	\$15,600

\*Value=\$100 p/gram for meth, cocaine, crack, heroin: \$10 p/gram/ tablet for ecstasy, LSD, mushrooms:

\$7 p/gram for marijuana:

Firearm: Long guns, \$200 each. Handguns, \$400 each.

2009: Provided information to KCKS PD that led to an arrest and the recovery of 5 ounces of methamphetamine, one firearm, the seizure of two vehicles and \$2000 in cash.

2009: JCDTF recovered 1590 pharmaceutical pills

The drug removal value is based on an average of \$100.00 per gram for all controlled substances, except the hallucinogen drugs, which are calculated at \$10.00 per gram/tablet. The street value for marijuana is based on \$7.00 a gram. The street value of recovered and seized controlled substances is \$640,821. The quantities of methamphetamine include undercover purchases, seizures and laboratory production capability based on the essential chemicals present at the clandestine laboratory. The laboratory production capability is based on 50% of the essential chemicals present. The total number of firearms includes firearms seized from defendants during undercover arrests and from clandestine laboratories. The total number of clandestine methamphetamine laboratories processed from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009 was 9. There were a total of 87 undercover drug purchases conducted during this period. Adult arrests were 222. Minors found in meth labs were 7. State convictions were 39, Federal convictions 25.

It should be noted, as a matter of JCDTF policy, pursuant to the execution of state search warrants, the collection, preservation, disposal and accountability of clandestine laboratory materials fall within purview of a clandestine laboratory crew dispatched by DEA and HIDTA. For this reason, while the JCDTF may initiate and prosecute the investigative matter, DEA and HIDTA are accountable

for items seized and destroyed at the scene. These retrievable records are maintained by DEA and HIDTA and reported as such so as to avoid redundancy or duplication of statistical data/accomplishments.

#### ASSET FORFEITURES RECEIVED BY JCDTF

- \$176,239.62 in asset funds received

#### SEIZURES

- Narcotics Value: \$640,821.00
- Weapons (70) Value: \$21,800.00
- Currency: \$.75,057.77

#### PERSONNEL

- 1 Officer-in-Charge
- 2 Sergeants
- 14 Detectives
- 1 Property Officer
- 2 Administrative personnel
- 6 Personnel rotated out during 2009
- 3 Contract employees- fiscal officer, legal advisor and chemist

### PROSECUTION COMPARISON YEARS 2008 & 2009

Cases Presented 2008      2009 55            61	<i>State</i> 2008      2009 43            49	Federal 2008      2009 12            12	Percent Change  %
Cases Dismissed 2008      2009 23	<b>State</b> 2008      2009 21	Federal 2008      2009 2	Percent Change  +%
Cases Acquitted 2008      2009 0            0	State 2008      2009 0            0	Federal 2008      2009 0            0	Percent Change  0%
Incarcerations 2008      2009 41            31	State 2008      2009 6            6	Federal 2008      2009 35            25	Percent Change  +%

Meth Labs Processed	2008 8	2009 9	Percent Change -%
Narcotics Purchases	2008 117	2009 87	Percent Change +%
<b>Convictions</b>	2008 68	2009 64	Percent Change +%

## 2009 DRUG COMPLAINT REPORT

The year of 2009 ended with more complaints being entered in CODY than any of the previous years on record. There were a total of two hundred and thirty (230) complaints logged. Many of these complaints involved residences in otherwise quiet neighborhoods. Complaints usually result in search warrants, arrests and charges.

The following is a statistical break down of the information.

### LOCATION OF COMPLAINTS

Location	Total Number of Complaints	% of Total
Blue Springs	23	10%
Buckner	2	0.9%
Grain Valley	26	11%
Grandview	50	22%
Greenwood	1	0.4%
Independence	53	23%
Jackson County	2	0.9%
Kansas City MO	19	8%
Lake Lotawana	2	0.9%
Lee's Summit	14	6%
Lone Jack	2	0.9%
Oak Grove	16	7%
Raytown	10	4%
Sugar Creek	12	5%

Two of the municipalities, Independence and Grandview make up forty-five percent (45%) of the total complaints received. Blue Springs and Grain Valley combine for twenty-one percent (21%) of the total. Five of the locations make up thirty-one percent (31%): Kansas City, MO, Lee's Summit, Oak Grove, Raytown, and Sugar Creek. Buckner, Greenwood, Unincorporated Jackson County, Lake Lotawana, and Lone Jack have the remaining three percent (3%).

Of the two hundred and thirty (230) complaints, at present, thirty-two (32%) have been unfounded or suspended after surveillance, knock and talks and/or trash pulls met with negative results. Ten percent (10%) of the complaints have resulted in active cases being opened; with eight (8) of the complaints being referred to other agencies for disposition. Forty-six percent (46%) of the complaints have been completed and fifty-four percent (54%), or one hundred twenty-five (125) complaints are currently open.



### Complaints Received From:

Complaint Received From	Total number of complaints	Percent of total received
Blue Springs PD	6	2.6%
Buckner PD	2	0.8%
COMBAT	17	7.4%
E-Mail	8	3.5%
Grain Valley PD	17	7.4%
Grandview PD	36	15.5%
Greenwood	1	0.4%
Independence PD	20	8.7%
Informants	7	3.0%
JCDTF	12	5.2%
Kansas City PD	5	2.2%
Lee's Summit PD	4	1.8%
Oak Grove PD	8	3.5%
Phone Call	28	12.2%
Sugar Creek PD	11	4.8%
Tips Hotline	48	21.0%

A total of sixteen (16) entities initiated complaints during 2009. Grandview, Independence, phone in complaints, and Tips Hotline are responsible for fifty-Seven percent (57%) of the overall complaints. COMBAT, Grain Valley, JCDTF, and Sugar Creek initiated another twenty-five percent (25%) of the complaints received. The remaining eight agencies constitute the last eighteen percent (18%) of the complaints.

Complaints that have resulted in active cases being initiated comprise ten percent (10%) of the total complaints. The following table is a representative of which jurisdictions had cases opened:

Jurisdiction	Number of cases filed
Blue Springs	4
Grain Valley	4
Grandview	1
Greenwood	1
Independence	8
Kansas City, MO	3
Lee's Summit	1
Oak Grove	1
Raytown	1

Of the eight (8) complaints referred to other agencies, four were to the Independence Police Department, two (2) complaints were referred to Federal agencies with one (1) each to the Jackson County Sheriff's Office and the Oak Grove Police Department.

**Conclusion:**

The year of 2009 has seen an unprecedented amount of complaints taken by the Jackson County Drug Task Force. Realizing the statistics referred to in this 2009 report does not include the cases that were initiated by task force agents. Therefore with one hundred twenty-five complaints still open, the investigations are still on-going. With this in mind 2010 should be a busy and satisfying year for the Jackson County Drug Task Force.

The JCDTF solicits tips regarding narcotics activity through phone in complaints at 655-DRUG, via email, [jcdtf@swbell.net](mailto:jcdtf@swbell.net) or through the TIPS hotline, 474-TIPS.

## NARCOTICS TRENDS

### METHAMPHETAMINE

Positive steps have resulted in some success in targeting methamphetamine.

There is a strong law enforcement presence in the metropolitan area.

Sharing of information and resources has put pressure on methamphetamine manufacturers, importers and traffickers.

Proactive efforts have displaced clandestine labs, which has resulted in a reduction of lab incidents in the area.



As of this writing the Missouri State Highway Patrol reported that fifty-three (53) methamphetamine labs were processed in Jackson County in 2004 as opposed to sixty-two (62) in 2003. The JCDTF responded to fifteen (15) labs in 2004 as opposed to twenty-two (22) in 2003. It is recognized that the reduced numbers may reflect more of a displacement to areas further away from the metropolitan area.

However, methamphetamine continues to be a problem in the Metropolitan area. It is readily available, user prices are reasonable and purity levels are acceptable but vary widely. Law enforcement in the area is faced with two problems in addressing the sources of methamphetamine. Local production of methamphetamine in small portable labs is a continuing concern from both an enforcement aspect and as a public safety issue. Although they do not produce much product, the labs are a regular source of supply for addicts. The clean up of these clandestine labs is a drain on manpower and resources.

Jackson County as well as areas across the country has seen a dramatic increase in the discovery of "ONE POT" methamphetamine clandestine laboratories. This method poses a particular threat to police officers in the field

because on several occasions the suspects have possessed the “ONE POT” on their persons. This is a threat to the officer or anyone who is in close proximity to or is searching the suspect.

A one pot methamphetamine lab is generally contained in a 16 to 20 ounce soda or Gatorade bottle, but can be in any bottle, jar, etc. The “cook” combines common methamphetamine lab chemicals such as Lye, Camping fuel, Lithium battery strips, and anhydrous ammonia (which could come in the form of cold packs). These containers are highly reactive and could cause a flash fire that can burst the container, getting the chemicals on the officer.

The second problem is the proliferation of imported methamphetamine. This product is brought into the area in kilo quantities from California and the Southwest Border States with the original source being Mexico. Traffickers of imported methamphetamine tend to work in both cells and structured groups. These groups can be and are penetrated with longer-term investigations. Leaders predominantly have no ties to the area or the United States and thus they are flight risks. Members use multiple identities in an effort to confuse authorities. Intelligence information has been received that some wholesalers come to the area to deal large amounts of methamphetamine for a short period of time, make what money they can and then leave the area.

## COCAINE POWDER and CRACK COCAINE

Cocaine, in powder and crack form, is available throughout the metropolitan area. Indications are that cocaine will continue to be a problem because the incoming amounts translate to a product that is relatively affordable and easily procured. Crack and powder cocaine are prevalent in Eastern Jackson County and together are judged to be the number three (3) and four (4) drugs of choice behind marijuana and methamphetamine. Generally cocaine powder is brought into the metropolitan area



from the Southwest Border States and California. Importers use a variety of transportation techniques depending on the amount they are bringing in. Once here it is either sold in powder form or converted to crack. Cocaine abuse ranges from casual users of powder to those addicted to crack and other narcotics. One sign of success for law enforcement is an emerging trend where some dealers will only sell powder cocaine, admitting they are trying to avoid the severe federal penalties associated with selling crack cocaine. Retail distributors are usually found to be individuals associated with small groups who have ties to

more organized groups. The larger drug trafficking organizations have direct ties to out of state and international sources. Enforcement efforts and cooperative investigations have been successful against dealers, wholesalers and importers. Any Investigation into individuals or smaller groups always focuses on moving up the distribution chain.

## MARIJUANA

Marijuana is readily available in all areas of Jackson County. It is the most abused and preferred drug in the area. It is viewed as a “gateway” drug, one that leads to abuse of other substances and is commonly found in combination with other narcotics.

Marijuana is either locally cultivated or imported into the area. Local cultivation is done usually in small indoor grow operations.



In rural settings outside the metropolitan area it is grown in large outdoor plots. Enforcement focuses on destruction of the plants and prosecution, usually at the state level when there are no extenuating circumstances or other crimes.

The source for imported marijuana is usually the Southwest Border States and California. Mexican organizations bring it across the US border for distribution with other drugs such as methamphetamine and cocaine. Enforcement targeting importers focuses on the entire organization and the other associated narcotics.

## HEROIN

Heroin is not readily available in this area. It is known that there are abusers, however it is a very small portion of the population. Dealers are individuals who possess and sell small amounts. They normally do not try to recruit customers or expand their sales base. Many of the dealers and abusers know each other and operate as a small subculture. There are no known trends at the current time that indicate heroin abuse will increase.

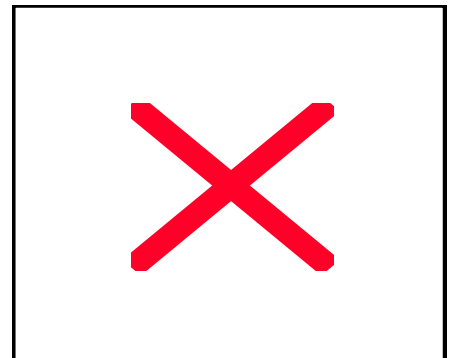


## OTHER DRUGS

As noted earlier, detectives encountered Psilocybin mushrooms disguised as candy. In other instances the mushrooms were available in normal form. Some individuals indicated they could obtain the drug and did offer it for sale but they had none on hand. This indicates that abuse is not widespread but dealers did have a source of supply that was somewhat limited. Mushrooms are generally not imported. The source for the drug is usually an individual who cultivates the plants on a low level scale. Enforcement focuses on identifying the source, seizure and prosecution.

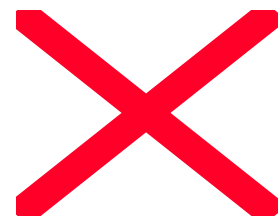


MDMA/Ecstasy and LSD are available in Eastern Jackson County. This is a concern because MDMA/Ecstasy and LSD users tend to be high school and college aged youth. Both of these drugs are known to be used at popular parties known as raves and in club settings. Manufacture of these drugs involves a complex chemical process and there is no known production in the area. LSD is imported from California in a variety of different methods. MDMA/Ecstasy is manufactured and imported from outside the US. Most recently the JCDTF has noted an increase in the availability of MDMA/Ecstasy. Multiple investigations are currently underway. LSD has been encountered in sporadic instances but it does not appear to hold the popularity or availability it once had in the area.



PCP (phencyclidine) is recognized as an extremely dangerous drug due to its psychological effect on users. PCP is often applied to marijuana and smoked. Availability ranges from somewhat limited in Eastern Jackson County to easily obtainable in the center of the metropolitan area.

Oxycontin, Vicodin and other prescribed pharmaceutical drugs are commonly abused in Jackson County. Diversion occurs through fraudulent prescriptions, "doctor shopping", robberies and



burglaries. Abusers and dealers consist of individuals or a group of individuals rather than structured groups. Persons involved in abuse of pharmaceuticals will use a portion of the drugs and sell a portion. Diversion is not considered widespread and enforcement has been successful in containing this problem. Enforcement is twofold in abuse of pharmaceutical drugs. Investigation and prosecution of the dealer and the source for narcotics violations will stem street level sales. In instances where other crimes such as robbery, burglary and fraudulent prescriptions are involved, the investigative and prosecutorial focus will shift to these crimes to address the problem.

Jackson County is a primary market area for production, distribution and abuse of dangerous drugs. Although progress has been made in many areas, continued vigilance, enforcement, treatment and education is required. The Jackson County Drug Task Force will continue its successful tradition through community partnerships and a united cooperative effort against illegal narcotics.

**JACKSON COUNTY  
DRUG TASK FORCE**

**2009**

**PRESS RELEASES**



NEWS RELEASE  
OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**MATT J. WHITWORTH**

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MARCH 4, 2009  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OPERATION X-MEN

TEXAS MAN SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS FOR  
MASSIVE ECSTASY CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Matt J. Whitworth, Acting United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that another defendant has been sentenced in federal court for his role in a conspiracy to distribute hundreds of thousands of ecstasy pills, worth approximately \$2 million, in Jackson County, Mo.

Dung A. Nguyen, 35, of Texas, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this afternoon to 15 years and eight months in federal prison without parole.

Nguyen was convicted by a federal jury on Feb. 21, 2008, for his role in a conspiracy that distributed ecstasy, crack cocaine, powder cocaine and PCP in Jackson County from Nov. 9, 2004, to Jan. 1, 2007.

Also convicted at trial were co-defendants Boun Rattavong, 34, of Grand Prairie, Texas, and Raphael L. Donnell, 33, also known as “Rags,” and Dempsey Johnson, also known as “Booky,” 29, both of Kansas City, Mo. Rattavong was sentenced on Oct. 31, 2008, to 20 years in federal prison without parole. Donnell was sentenced on July 9, 2008, to 20 years in federal prison without parole. Johnson was sentenced on Sept. 10, 2008 to 20 years in federal prison without parole.

Evidence introduced in the trial of Nguyen, Rattavong, Donnell and Johnson indicated that the wide-ranging conspiracy involved between 400,000 and 450,000 ecstasy pills delivered to Kansas City from Texas, as well as PCP from California. Evidence included undercover drug transactions, surveillance and telephone wiretaps that recorded conversations in which co-defendants discussed drug trafficking and firearms, including automatic weapons and assault

rifles. Nguyen, Rattanaovong, Donnell and Johnson were also found to be jointly and severally liable for a \$2 million forfeiture to the government, which was derived from the proceeds of illegal drug trafficking.

Twenty-one additional co-defendants have been sentenced after pleading guilty. Shannon Dewayne Luckey, 35, of Los Angeles, Calif., was sentenced on Jan. 28, 2009, to seven years in federal prison without parole. James Robert Petersen, 34, of Dallas, Texas, was sentenced on Dec. 3, 2008, to 17 years and six months in federal prison without parole. Derrick T. Seals, also known as "D," 28, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced on June 9, 2008, to 20 years in federal prison without parole. Jermaine Talley, also known as "Shorty," 35, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced on March 6, 2008, to seven years and three months in federal prison without parole. Brian C. Fennix, 42, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced on Dec. 11, 2007, to five years and 11 months. Quebe Seals, 28, of Arlington, Texas, was sentenced on June 5, 2008, to five years in federal prison without parole. Jon C. Crawford, 27, of Topeka, Kan., was sentenced on Dec. 13, 2007, to two years and six months in federal prison without parole. Nicole Wyatt, also known as "Co-Co," 29, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced on March 3, 2008, to 21 months in federal prison without parole.

Dimitri Jones, also known as "MiMi," 31, was sentenced on Jan. 24, 2008 to five years and three months in federal prison without parole. Wayne Williams, 24, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced on July 9, 2008 to nine years and six months in federal prison without parole. Also sentenced to federal prison on July 9, 2008: Arron Hall, 28, of Kansas City Mo., received four years; Adrian Washington, 27, of Kansas City, Mo., received two years and six months; Simona Bryant, 37, of Kansas City, Mo., received 25 months; Jeffery Morgan, 29, of Kansas City, Mo., received six years; and Jason Cross, 23, received three years and five months.

Delesha Hughes, 25, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced to four years and six months in federal prison on Sept. 10, 2008. On Aug. 5, 2008, four other defendants were sentenced: Maurice Davis, 30, also known as "Reese," of Kansas City, Kan., received three years and 10 months; Adrian Wright, 32, also known as "Fat A," of Kansas City, Mo., received 10 years; Andre L. Brice, 27, also known as "Dre," of Kansas City, MO., received 10 years; and Tremayne Tyler, 36, also known as "Pig," of Los Angeles, Ca., received nine years. Damon S. Bryant, 38, also known as "D," 38, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced on September 23, 2008 to 10 years in federal prison without parole.

Co-defendants Gerald E. Dunn, also known as "G," 36, of Lee's Summit, Mo., and Vu Nguyen Huynh, 24, of Arlington, Texas, pleaded guilty to their roles in the conspiracy and await sentencing.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David DeTar Newbert. It was investigated by the Jackson County Drug Task Force and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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

# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

## MATT J. WHITWORTH

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AUGUST 13, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### PROJECT CEASEFIRE

#### KC MAN SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS FOR

#### ILLEGAL FIREARM, MARIJUANA

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Matt J. Whitworth, Acting United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for illegally possessing a firearm and for possessing marijuana with the intent to distribute.

**Ishmael K. Harris**, 29, of Kansas City, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this morning to 15 years in federal prison without parole. **Harris** was sentenced as an armed career offender due to his prior violent and drug trafficking felony convictions.

On March 18, 2009, **Harris** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm and to possession with intent to distribute marijuana. **Harris** was arrested after leaving a residence that was under surveillance by the Jackson County Drug Task Force during a narcotics investigation. **Harris'** pick-up truck was stopped by law enforcement officers, who conducted a search and found a duffel bag containing approximately three pounds of marijuana in the back seat as well as a Hi-Point 40-caliber semi-automatic pistol in the center console area. Officers later found approximately 30 pounds of marijuana while searching **Harris'** residence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. It was investigated by the Jackson County Drug Task Force, the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department, the Raytown, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

**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 for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

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[The Examiner](#)

Posted Dec 16, 2009 @ 03:48 PM

Independence, MO —

Three men were arrested Tuesday evening in Independence after police searched six homes, discovering narcotics, weapons, and about 1,200 rounds of ammunition.

Mike Hand, director of the Jackson County Drug Task Force, said Wednesday some of the ammunition was armor piercing, an indication of the severity of the investigation.

“When viewed in its totality, the amount of drugs, the types of weapons, the amount of ammunition is an indication of the level of violence that some individuals are prepared to exert in order to protect their illegal activity,” Hand said.

Charges have not been filed against the three men who were found at a home at 606 E. Fair St. in Independence. Items found must be inventoried and tested first, he said. Several search warrants were issued Tuesday night after the organization received several hotline complaints and tips regarding suspicious activity and/or suspected narcotics activity at various residences.

Police searched the East Fair Street home and located the resident, a convicted felon, who reportedly possessed several grams of what appeared to be methamphetamine in his pocket.

Detectives found an assault type 12 gauge shotgun and an assault-equipped .223 caliber mini-14 rifle. Detectives found a cache of ammunition of about 1,200 rounds and military-style ammo magazines, or armor piercing rounds.

Independence Police Department’s Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team also assisted, according to Hand, after what appeared to be a stick of dynamite was found in a bedroom of the home. Hand said the device was capable of blowing up the bedroom.

Detectives also found illegal prescription drugs and a large amount of narcotics paraphernalia. Two residents of the home were arrested and later questioned.

Charges for possession of an explosive device and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon will be filed at a later date.

While police were at the scene, an adult man came up to the house and asked what was going on. Consequently, police found him to be in possession of a small amount of methamphetamine, and he was subsequently arrested.

Charges are also pending against other unidentified men after police searched at about the same time six other homes, recovering marijuana, illegal prescription pills and drug paraphernalia.

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