

JCDTF

Jackson County Drug Task Force

OIC - Michael Hand



Press Release

PRATER PLEADS GUILTY

Ryan G. Prater, 25, of Independence, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to being an unlawful user of a controlled substance illegally in possession of a firearm.

By pleading guilty, Prater admitted that he was in possession of a Beretta .40-caliber pistol on Jan. 11, 2005. Under federal law it is illegal for any user or addict of a controlled substance to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. The indictment alleges that Prater was an unlawful user of methamphetamine at the time he possessed the firearm.

In a separate case, Prater also pleaded guilty to conspiring to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between July and September 2005 in eastern Jackson County. Prater was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on March 4, 2005, in Kansas City.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce E. Clark.

It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department, the Jackson County Drug Task Force and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.