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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 7, 2014 **Contact:** Jonathan Raven, Chief Deputy District Attorney
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Kern County Men Convicted of Conspiracy to Commit Murder

(Woodland, CA) – January 7, 2014 - District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced that on January 3, 2014, a Yolo County jury found 55-year-old David Earl Bristow of Bakersfield, CA guilty of conspiracy to commit murder, attempted murder, assault with a firearm, assault with a deadly weapon, and found the enhancements for personal use of a firearm and inflicting great bodily injury to be true. On January 6, 2014, a second Yolo County jury found 65-year-old Danny Joe Stearman of Shafter, CA guilty of those same charges, but found the enhancements for personal use of a firearm not true. Bristow and Stearman were tried together in one joint trial, but they had separate juries.

On October 1, 2012, Bristow and Stearman ambushed the victim while he was on his way to work in Arbuckle, CA. Stearman, the victim's ex-wife's uncle, and Bristow, a hired hit man, used their vehicle to force the victim's car to a stop on County Line Road in Dunnigan, CA. After exiting his car, the victim was shot in the back of the head, stabbed, sliced in the face, and run down with his own vehicle. The defendants then left the victim on the side of the road to die. Miraculously, the victim survived and was able to immediately identify Stearman. Yolo County Sheriff's Detectives who investigated the case used cell phone records to identify Bristow as the second attacker.

Deputy District Attorneys, Robert Gorman, Jennifer Davis, and Josh Maxwell, prosecuted the case. "The prosecution team owes a great deal of gratitude to both juries for their hard work in reaching verdicts in this very violent case," said Davis. "We also would not have achieved these guilty verdicts without the thorough and dedicated efforts of the Yolo County Sheriff's Office."

District Attorney Jeff Reisig praised the victim: "The courage of the victim in this case is amazing," said Reisig. "Not only did he survive a brutal attempt to take his life, but he then had the strength to confront his attackers in open court and testify about their failed attempt to kill him. Because of his perseverance, these violent men should spend the rest of their life in prison."

The Honorable Stephen Mock who presided over the trial will sentence Stearman on February 14, 2014. Bristow's sentencing date has not yet been scheduled. Bristow and Stearman both face life in state prison.

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