



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Note: Audio comments regarding this case are available in  
MP3 format online at [www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)*

**UPDATE: NITRO**  
**NORTHWEST MISSOURI MAN INDICTED**  
**FOR POSSESSION OF FIREARM**  
**AFTER SHOOTING AT PARTY**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a northwest Missouri man was indicted by a federal grand jury today, the result of an investigation by NITRO – the Northwest Missouri Interagency Team Response Operation Task Force.

**Douglas S. Armstrong**, 31, address unknown, was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury meeting in Kansas City.

The indictment alleges that **Armstrong** was in possession of a New England Firearms Company 20-gauge shotgun on Jan. 31, 2003. 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. **Armstrong** has two 1989 criminal felony convictions for burglary, two 1989 criminal felony convictions for arson, and a 1990 criminal felony conviction for attempting to deliver a controlled substance in or about the premises of a county jail.

Today's indictment, Graves explained, replaces a federal criminal complaint that was filed against **Armstrong** on Feb. 7, 2003. According to an affidavit filed in support of that criminal complaint, **Armstrong** and four other individuals went to a Polo residence where there was a party occurring on Jan. 31, 2003. The affidavit alleges that **Armstrong** began yelling and threatening about 20 individuals who were at the party, then pulled a loaded shotgun from his jeans and pointed it at one of those individuals.

After a brief scuffle, the affidavit alleges, **Armstrong** concealed the shotgun back in his jeans and continued to yell and threaten people at the party. **Armstrong** pulled the shotgun from his jeans again, allegedly discharging it into the ground. According to the affidavit, the pellets from the discharge struck a woman, who was transported to Liberty Hospital for treatment of her non-life-threatening injuries.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment 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.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rudolph R. Rhodes, IV. The case was investigated by NITRO, the Caldwell County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

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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)