



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO CHARGED FOR POSSESSING 27 STOLEN FIREARMS FOLLOWING BURGLARY OF PAWN SHOP

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two men were charged in federal court today with illegally possessing 27 stolen firearms in Oregon County, Mo.

Matthew M. Bradley, 36, and **Kamela D. Crone**, 36, were charged this afternoon in a criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Springfield. The criminal complaint alleges that the co-defendants illegally possessed 27 shotguns, assault rifles and semi-automatic pistols, among others, along with ammunition, on Dec. 4, 2003, in Oregon County, Mo.

An affidavit filed in support of the criminal complaint states that law enforcement officers discovered the firearms after receiving tip that the co-defendants burglarized a pawn shop in Mammoth Springs, Ark. The co-defendants allegedly attempted to sell the weapons for \$3,500 on Dec. 4, 2003. Upon arresting the co-defendants, law enforcement officers retrieved the firearms and hundreds of rounds of ammunition from the vehicle the co-defendants were driving.

Graves cautioned that the charge contained in the complaint is simply an accusation, and is not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charge must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard E. Monroe. It was investigated by the Oregon County Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

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