



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CARTHAGE FELON PLEADS GUILTY TO ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Carthage, Mo., man pleaded guilty today to being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Douglas M. Gollhofer, 31, of Carthage, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge James C. England this morning to being a felon in possession of a firearm.

By pleading guilty, **Gollhofer** admitted that he was in possession four firearms on Jan. 26, 2003, in Jasper County, Mo., including a .308 caliber Winchester rifle with ammunition; a .22 caliber Remington rifle; a 12 gauge Magtech shotgun; and a 12 gauge Harrington and Richardson shotgun. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Gollhofer** has a 1993 criminal felony conviction for stealing, a 1995 criminal felony conviction for burglary and stealing, a 1997 criminal felony conviction for receiving stolen property, and a 1997 criminal felony conviction for second degree burglary and stealing.

Gollhofer was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Aug. 13, 2003, in Springfield.

As a result of pleading guilty, **Gollhofer** may be subject to a sentence of up to 10 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine of up to \$250,000. His sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Deputy U.S. Attorney Michael A. Jones. It was investigated by the Carthage, Mo., Police 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