



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORMER LEE'S SUMMIT MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSION OF HAND GRENADE, PIPE BOMB

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas man, formerly of Lee's Summit, pleaded guilty in federal court today to being in possession of a hand grenade and a pipe bomb.

Joseph H. Johnston, 38, of Roeland Park, Kansas, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to both counts of an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Dec. 19, 2002.

On July 28, 2002, Graves said, **Johnston** was in possession of a fully assembled improvised explosive grenade, consisting of a quantity of explosives confined within a modified military MK II type hand grenade hull with the emission hole plugged and an improvised military-type grenade fuse inserted into the grenade and into the confined explosives. **Johnston** was also in possession of a fully assembled explosive bomb, Graves said, consisting of a quantity of explosive confined within a modified compressed gas cylinder and a length of green pyrotechnic fuse inserted into the confined explosives. These destructive devices were not registered to him in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record.

In addition to those fully functional devices, Graves said, law enforcement officers also found component parts of a hand grenade and a pipe bomb in **Johnston's** Lee's Summit residence. **Johnston** admitted to being in possession of an unassembled improvised explosive grenade (consisting of a quantity of explosive powder, a length of green pyrotechnic fuse, a modified military MK II type grenade hull, and a spent military-type hand grenade fuse) and two unassembled explosive bombs (which consisted of a quantity of explosive powders, a length of green pyrotechnic fuse and two modified compressed gas cylinders). These component parts were not registered to **Johnston** in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record.

As a result of today's guilty plea, **Johnston** could be subject to a sentence of up to 20 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$500,000. **Johnston's** sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing is scheduled for June 30, 2003.

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

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