



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

JULY 11, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROJECT CEASEFIRE
BELTON FELON SENTENCED FOR VIOLATING
FEDERAL FIREARMS LAW

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Belton, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for violating a federal firearms law. The case marks additional progress under Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

Keith A. Mansker, 29, of Belton, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright to two years and three months in federal prison without parole for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

On April 11, 2003, **Mansker** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, he admitted that he was in possession of two Smith and Wesson .38 caliber revolvers on Aug. 1, 2002. It is illegal, Graves explained, for a felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Mansker** has a 1992 criminal felony conviction for burglary.

Mansker was originally charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Dec. 19, 2002, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. It was investigated by the Belton, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms for federal prosecution.

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