



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

FEBRUARY 12, 2003
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NITRO UPDATE:
DAVIESS COUNTY MAN PLEADS GUILTY
IN NITRO FIREARMS CASE

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

William S. Perkins, 33, of McFall, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this afternoon to being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The plea agreement, Graves said, is the result of work conducted by the recently launched NITRO task force in Northwest Missouri. NITRO is the Northwest Missouri Team Response Operation, a joint law enforcement effort by the United States Attorney's Office and federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in the 16-county region.

By pleading guilty, **Perkins** admitted that he was in possession of a New England 12-gauge sawed-off shotgun and a Kimel .22-caliber revolver on October, 29, 2002. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for a convicted felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Perkins'** has two 1995 felony convictions for first degree theft and criminal mischief and a 1997 felony conviction for driving with a suspended or revoked license.

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

The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess Michaelson. It was investigated by NITRO in cooperation with the Gallatin, Mo., Police Department.

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