



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**SEPTEMBER 4, 2003**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NITRO UPDATE:**  
**PATTONSBURG FELON SENTENCED**  
**FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Pattonsburg, Mo., man was sentenced today for being a felon in possession of a firearm. Today's sentencing, Graves said, is the result of work completed by the NITRO Task Force.

**Thomas F. Terry**, 28, of Pattonsburg, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this morning to one year and nine months in federal prison without parole.

On April 4, 2003, **Terry** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of two firearms. By pleading guilty, he admitted that he was in possession of a FEG rifle and a Maverick 12-gauge shotgun on Sept. 26, 2002. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Terry** has a 1995 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance.

**Terry** was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Jan. 28, 2003, in Kansas City.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rudolph R. Rhodes, IV. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the NITRO Task Force. 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.

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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](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)

