



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
OSBORN RESIDENT SENTENCED
FOR ILLEGALLY POSSESSING 17 FIREARMS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Osborn, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for violating a federal firearms law and possessing 17 firearms. This case marks additional progress under Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

Tony E. Wardlow, 44, of Osborn, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., this morning to three years and 10 months in federal prison without parole.

On Dec. 3, 2002, **Wardlow** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Wardlow** admitted that on March 14, 2002, he was found in possession of numerous firearms, including five shotguns, seven rifles, one pistol and four revolvers. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Wardlow** has two 1997 criminal felony convictions for endangering the welfare of a child.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Linda L. Sybrant. It was investigated by the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office 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. Project Ceasefire has resulted in federal charges against 406 defendants, and convictions against 342 of those defendants, including 319 who pleaded guilty and 23 who were convicted at trial. A total of 296 of the 342 convicted defendants have been sentenced, and 46 currently await sentencing hearings.

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