



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NITRO UPDATE

CAMERON, MO., MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF 19 FIREARMS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Cameron, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to being a felon in possession of 19 firearms. Graves said the case, part of the district's ongoing Project Ceasefire anti-crime initiative, is a result of the work of the NITRO task force.

Rodney Lee Webber, 37, of Cameron, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Court Judge Gary A. Fenner this morning to being a felon in possession of a firearm. **Webber** was initially charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on March 5, 2003, in Kansas City.

By pleading guilty, **Webber** admitted that on March 4, 2003, he was in possession of 19 weapons, including: a Bryco Arms 9 mm pistol; a Connecticut Valley Arms and Armi San Marco .410 gauge single-shot shotgun; two Winchester .30-30 lever-action rifles; two Winchester 12 gauge shotguns; a Mossberg .22 caliber rifle; two Marlin .22 caliber rifles; a Savage .22 caliber rifle; a Rossi .22 caliber rifle; a New England Arms 12 gauge shotgun; a Savage 12 gauge shotgun; a Mossberg .410 gauge shotgun; a Sauer and Sohn .22 caliber revolver; a Winchester .270 caliber rifle; a Lithgow .303 caliber rifle; a Springfield Armory .45 caliber pistol; and a .22 caliber revolver. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Webber** has two 1985 criminal felony convictions for stealing and burglary.

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

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelson. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Cameron, Mo., Police Department 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.

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

