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For Immediate Release  
March 14, 2008

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**Woolwich Man Sentenced on Federal Firearms Charge**

Portland, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced today that a federal judge sitting in Portland sentenced Matthew Tainter, 22, of Woolwich, to nearly two years in prison for being an illegal drug user in possession of firearms.

On June 9, 2007, Tainter hosted a gathering at his Woolwich residence during which he used illicit drugs, including crack cocaine, marijuana, and prescription pills. An altercation ensued between Tainter and another person during which a firearm was discharged. Police later searched the residence and seized twenty firearms and ammunition. As an illegal drug user, Tainter was prohibited from possessing firearms and ammunition. Tainter was sentenced to twenty-one months in prison, three years of supervised release and a \$2,500 fine.

This case is part of Maine's Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative, which is designed to reduce gun violence in the State of Maine. United States Attorney Silsby said that the investigation was conducted by the Sagadahoc County Sheriff's Department and District Attorney's Office, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.