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**Whiting Man Convicted of Federal Firearms Charge**

Bangor, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced that, following a 2-day jury trial in U.S. District Court in Bangor, Maine, which ended on December 31, 2008, the jury, after deliberating for 3 hours, found **Mark McCurdy**, 51, of Whiting, Maine, guilty of being a felon in possession of a firearm. McCurdy could face a possible sentence of a 15-year mandatory minimum prison term and up to life imprisonment, and a fine of up to \$250,000, or both.

Court records reveal that on March 27, 2006, Washington County Sheriff's Deputies were called to a domestic disturbance at the residence where McCurdy lived with his girlfriend. During the course of their investigation, the deputies seized an AR-15 rifle, several magazines, and numerous rounds of ammunition.

According to the indictment, McCurdy had previously been convicted in Maine of Robbery, which is a felony. As a convicted felon, McCurdy is prohibited from possessing firearms.

This case was part of Maine's Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative, which coordinates the efforts of federal and state agencies in order to increase successful prosecution of firearms cases and educate potential offenders on the serious consequences of illegal gun use and possession.

United States Attorney Silsby praised the investigation conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives, the Washington County Sheriff's Department and the Machias Police Department.

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