



Department of Justice

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Western District of Kentucky

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2008
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CONVICTED FELON PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL FIREARMS CHARGE

-Also previously convicted of possession of a firearm while a convicted felon

PADUAH, KY - Derl Sharp, age 49, of 529 Olive Creek Road, Benton, Kentucky, in Marshall County, pled guilty to the knowing possession of a firearm while he was a convicted felon, David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, and Paul Vido, Special Agent in charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Louisville Field Division, jointly announced today.

Sharp admitted that on February 28, 2008, he knowingly possessed a .22 caliber rifle in his residence in Marshall County, Kentucky. Sharp also admitted that he had been convicted of Possession of a Firearm While a Convicted Felon and Receiving Stolen Property (a Firearm), both felonies, in November 2004, in Livingston County, Kentucky. The .22 caliber rifle and approximately 97 rounds of .22 caliber ammunition were recovered by federal agents during the execution of a search warrant at the residence of Sharp on February 28, 2008.

The maximum potential penalties are 10 years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of 3 years.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney David Sparks. The Bowling Green Field Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) conducted the investigation as part of ATF's mandated mission to reduce violent crime and other threats to public safety.

The plea was entered before Hon. Thomas B. Russell, Judge, United States District Court, Paducah, Kentucky.

Sharp is scheduled to be sentenced before Judge Russell on November 20, 2008, at 10:45 a.m., in Paducah, Kentucky.

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