



# Department of Justice

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Western District of Kentucky

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## **BOWLING GREEN FELON PLEADS GUILTY TO HAVING ELEVEN FIREARMS**

*- Convicted felon and drug user pleads to possession of a fully automatic  
7.62 caliber rifle*

BOWLING GREEN, KY - - Dennis Craig Smith, age 56, of 319 Milam Clark Road, Metcalf County, Kentucky, entered an open plea of guilty to the charges possession of firearms, including a machine gun, by convicted felon and an unlawful user of controlled substance, 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.

Smith's weapons violations came to the attention of the ATF when the Kentucky State Police, using a spotter aircraft, discovered ten marijuana plants growing on his property. Based on a consent search, KSP searched his trailer and found the hand guns, rifles and shotguns. Smith plead guilty to the marijuana cultivation under Metcalfe County Indictment 07CR0056 and received a sentence of one year in prison that was probated for a term of three years.

Through his open plea, Smith admitted that on July 30, 2007, he illegally possessed the following: 1) Smith and Wesson, model 22, .22 caliber long rifle, serial number TYN0433; 2) Llama, model Parabellum, 9mm pistol, serial number 535445; 3) Ruger, model M.K. II, .22 caliber pistol, serial number 223-42568; 4) Ruger, model P89, 9mm pistol, serial number 305-32483; 5) Intratec, model TEC DC9, 9mm pistol, D078109; 6) Ruger, model Mini 14, .223

caliber rifle, serial number 183-35674; 7) Winchester, model 1300, 12 gauge shotgun, serial number L3087357; 8) Winchester, model 1300, 12 gauge shotgun, model; L3050183; 9) Marlin, model 60, .22 caliber rifle, serial number 032001770; 10) Chinese, model SKS, 7.62 caliber rifle, serial number 12241928; and 11) Romarm/Cugir, model SAR 1, 7.62 caliber rifle, serial number S1463522001. The SAR 1 rifle had been modified to a fully automatic machine gun, and was not registered to Smith in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record. Smith acknowledged his possession of the weapons was illegal because he was an unlawful user marijuana, and a convicted felon, who had previously been convicted of possession of a Switch blade Knife from 1973, in Middlesex County, New Jersey, and had been convicted of Possession of Prohibited Weapon III, Possession of Prohibited Device III, and Possession of Prohibited Weapon IV from 1984, in Middlesex County, New Jersey.

The maximum potential penalty is 10 years imprisonment, a \$250,000.00 fine, and supervised release for a period of 3 years.

**This is a Project Backfire prosecution. Project Backfire** is a cooperative effort by the Jefferson County Attorney's Office, the Jefferson County Commonwealth's Attorneys Office, the Louisville Metro Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the United States Attorney's Office to ensure that firearm offenses are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the state and federal law.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mac Shannon. The Louisville Field Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) conducted the investigation in partnership with the Kentucky State Police, as part of ATF's ongoing commitment to reduce violent crime and other threats to public safety.

Smith is scheduled to be sentenced before Judge Joseph H. McKinley on February 6, 2009, at 9:00 a.m., in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

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