



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROJECT CEASEFIRE
KC, BELTON MEN PLEAD GUILTY
TO FEDERAL FIREARMS VIOLATIONS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Belton, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to violating a federal firearms law. The case marks additional progress under Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

Keith A. Mansker, 29, of Belton, Mo., pleaded guilty in federal court before U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright to being a felon in possession of a firearm.

By pleading guilty, **Mansker** admitted that he was in possession of two Smith and Wesson .38 caliber revolvers on Aug. 1, 2002. It is illegal, Graves explained, for a felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Mansker** has a 1992 criminal felony conviction for burglary.

As a result of his guilty plea, **Mansker** faces up to 10 years in federal prison without parole, plus a \$250,000 fine. **Mansker's** 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 U.S. Probation Office.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. It was investigated by the Belton, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms for federal prosecution.

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