



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DALLAS COUNTY MAN SENTENCED FOR POSSESSING SAWED-OFF SHOTGUN

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Dallas County, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for violating federal firearms law.

Ralph Barnes, 47, of Dallas County, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Dean Whipple this morning to three years and 10 months in federal prison without parole.

On Jan. 3, 2003, **Barnes** pleaded guilty to possessing an unregistered sawed-off shotgun.

Law enforcement officials executed a search warrant at **Barnes'** home on May 14, 2002. During the search, Graves said, officers located a sawed-off New England Arms 12 gauge shotgun that had a barrel length of approximately 12 ½ inches and an overall length of approximately 17 ¾ inches. Due to the length of the shotgun, it was required to be registered in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and the Dallas County Sheriff's Department.

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