



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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JANUARY 31, 2005
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BRANSON MAN SENTENCED TO NEARLY 23 YEARS FOR FIREARMS CONVICTION

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Branson, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for being a felon in possession of firearms.

Mitchell A. Cannon, 47, of Branson, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr this morning to 22 years and 11 months in federal prison without parole.

“**Cannon’s** extensive criminal history, and the fact that he had the firearms while also in possession of methamphetamine, warrant such a lengthy prison term,” Graves said. “We’ve taken a dangerous career criminal off the streets and protected the community from further acts of violence for many years to come.”

Among his highest priorities, Graves added, is aggressively prosecuting felons who violate federal firearms laws. “By enforcing the laws against felons possessing guns, we prevent any future violent crimes that might be committed with those guns.”

Cannon was arrested on Feb. 3, 2004, when law enforcement officers were investigating a complaint of chemical odors at his residence. **Cannon** had meth in his possession, Graves said, and several firearms in the house.

On Sept. 28, 2004, **Cannon** was convicted by a jury of the charge contained in a March 31, 2004, federal indictment. **Cannon** was found guilty of being in possession of a Winchester .22-caliber semi-automatic rifle, a Remington .30-06-caliber semi-automatic rifle and a Mossberg 20-gauge shotgun on Feb. 3, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Cannon** has seven prior criminal felony convictions – a 1996 criminal felony conviction for robbery in Clay County, Mo., a 1995 criminal felony conviction for distribution, delivery or sale of a controlled substance in

Jackson County, Mo., three criminal felony convictions from Los Angeles County, Calif. (in 1992 for burglary, 1985 for grand theft from a person and 1983 for robbery) and two 1975 criminal felony convictions in Alabama for burglary and assault with intent to murder.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard E. Monroe. It was investigated by COMET (the Combined Ozarks Multi-jurisdictional Enforcement Team), the Taney County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

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