

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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JURY CONVICTS MACON MAN FOR ILLEGAL FIREARMS POSSESSION

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a Macon, Mo., man has been convicted by a federal jury for violating federal firearms law.

Raymond H. Hollis, 42, of Macon, was found guilty of being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition at the conclusion of a trial that began Oct. 26, 2004.

Following the presentation of evidence, jurors deliberated less than an hour before returning a guilty verdict to U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr on Oct. 27, 2004.

Hollis was arrested on March 27, 2004. Law enforcement officers responded to a call for assistance, Graves explained, and were asked to help a motorist whose vehicle was stuck. **Hollis** was found passed out, leaning against a tree near the vehicle. Officers found ammunition in his pocket, said Graves, and a loaded Dan Wesson .22-caliber handgun in the vehicle.

Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Hollis** has a 1988 criminal felony conviction for resisting arrest in Howell County, Mo.

Under federal statutes, **Hollis** could be subject to a sentence of up to 10 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Angela C. Hasty. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Oregon County, Mo., 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