

NEWS RELEASE

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BURFORDVILLE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS

May 14, 2007

A Burfordville, Missouri man pled guilty today to charges of unlawful possession of firearms, announced United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway.

MICHAEL W. LOCKE, age 38, pled guilty to one felony count of Being a Previously Convicted Felon in Possession of Firearms and also agreed to forfeit to the United States Government the 14 firearms he was found to have possessed. He appeared before United States District Judge Catherine D. Perry.

On August 10, 2006, officers from the Cape Girardeau Sheriff's Department conducted a search of the residence of Michael W. Locke, located in Cape Girardeau County, Missouri. The search was pursuant to a state search warrant. The officers found and seized a quantity of ammunition and fourteen firearms from the residence. Mr. Locke was interviewed about the

firearms by an ATF agent. Mr. Locke stated that he was in possession of the firearms and told the agent about the acquisition of some of the firearms. Mr. Locke also stated that he lived alone in the residence that was searched. Due to Lock's previous felony conviction, he is prohibited by law to possess firearms.

Locke now faces a maximum punishment of ten years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. Sentencing has been set for August 27, 2007.

Hanaway praised the Cape Girardeau County Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives for their work on the case. Assistant United States Attorney Keith D. Sorrell handled the prosecution for the Government.