

NEWS RELEASE

**FROM: Catherine L. Hanaway
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Missouri**



**325 Broadway Cape Girardeau, MO 63701 (573)
334-3736**

*For Further Information, Call:
Assistant U. S. Attorney Keith D. Sorrell*

JACKSON MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF A FIREARM

October 24, 2007

A Jackson, Missouri man pled guilty today to unlawful possession of a firearm, announced United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway.

MICHAEL S. JAMES, age 41, pled guilty to one felony count of being a previously convicted felon in possession of a firearm. He appeared before United States District Judge E. Richard Webber.

On January 20, 2007, the Cape Girardeau County Sheriff's office received a report that Michael S. James was an occupant of the Drury Inn at Fruitland, Missouri, and that there was an outstanding arrest warrant for him. A deputy verified the existence of a parole violator's arrest warrant for Mr. James. He then went to the Drury Inn to try to make contact with Mr. James. Mr. James was located in a room at the Drury Inn, where he was arrested. The officers

discovered a Titan, .25 caliber pistol, in some men's clothes in the room. Mr. James admitted that the pistol was his. Due to Mr. James' previous felony convictions, he is prohibited from possessing firearms and now faces a maximum punishment of life imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. Sentencing has been set for January 28, 2008.

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.