



Department of Justice

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Western District of Kentucky

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HENDERSON DRUG DEALER SENTENCED TO 2 ½ YEARS FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS AND DRUG TRAFFICKING

-- Unlawful drug user possessed six firearm

OWENSBORO, KY - Manford D. Stewart, age 45, of 217-A Mill Street, Henderson, Kentucky, was sentenced to two years and six months imprisonment in United States District Court, Owensboro, Kentucky, for trafficking in methamphetamine and unlawful possession of a firearm by a drug user, U.S. Attorney David L. Huber of the Western District of Kentucky and Paul Vido, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Louisville Field Division, jointly announced today. Joseph H. McKinley, Jr., Judge, United States District Court, also sentenced Stewart to three years supervised release following incarceration. There is no parole in the federal judicial system.

Stewart pled guilty on May 18, 2007, admitting that on March 31, 2006, he possessed with intent to distribute methamphetamine. Stewart also admitted to being an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of the following firearms:

1. A Marlin Firearms Co., Model 200 ,12-gauge shotgun,
2. A Marlin Firearms Co., Model 990, .22 caliber rifle,
3. A Mossburg, Model 500, 12-gauge shotgun,
4. A Remington Arms Co., Model 098, 12-gauge shotgun,
5. A Springfield Firearms Co., Model 944Y, 410-gauge shotgun,

6. A Harrington and Richardson, Model 098, gauge sawed-off shotgun
7. Model P-380, .380 caliber, semi automatic pistol

On March 31, 2006, Stewart sold a confidential informant 3.5 grams of methamphetamine having a street value of approximately \$400. On June 1, 2006, law enforcement authorities executed a search warrant at Stewart's residence at 217 Mill Street, Apartment A, in Henderson, Kentucky, and seized narcotics, drug paraphernalia and weapons.

This is a **Project Backfire** prosecution. **Project Backfire** is a partnership of state, local and federal law enforcement which targets violent offenders for prosecution to the fullest extent of state and federal law.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert J. Kilmartin. The Bowling Green Field Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) conducted the investigation in partnership with the Audubon Area Gun Task Force (AAGTF), as part of ATF's mandated mission to reduce violent crime and other threats to public safety.

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