



# Department of Justice

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Western District of Kentucky

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**GRAND JURY CHARGES FORMER HART COUNTY SHERIFF  
WITH POSSESSING UNREGISTERED SHORT BARREL RIFLES**

BOWLING GREEN, KY - A federal grand jury in Bowling Green returned an indictment against **Jeffrey Allen Staples**, age 51, of Munfordville, Kentucky, Hart County, Kentucky, charging him with knowingly possessing unregistered firearms, namely modified rifles with short barrels, which were not registered to him in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record and one of which was not identified by a serial number as required by federal law, David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, and Paul Vido, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Louisville Field Division, jointly announced today.

Federal law classifies certain modified rifles as "firearms" which must be registered in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record. A modified rifle must be registered if it has an overall length of less than 26 inches or a barrel of less than 16 inches in length. Additionally, all firearms, including modified rifles, which are required to be registered must be identified by a serial number. The Indictment alleges that on or about October 7, 2005, Staples knowingly possessed two modified rifles, which are commonly called "short barrel" rifles. Both of the rifles are described as having overall lengths of less than 26 inches and barrel lengths of less than 16 inches. The Indictment further alleges that one of the rifles, a .22 caliber Ruger, was not identified by a serial number. The Indictment also seeks forfeiture of both rifles.

In the event Staples is convicted on the charges relating to the unlawful possession of the modified rifles, the maximum potential penalties are 20 years imprisonment, a \$500,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of 3 years.

Assistant United States Attorney Jo E. Lawless is prosecuting the case. The Bowling Green Field Office of the ATF in close association with the Kentucky State Police, Drug Enforcement Special Investigations (DESI) unit conducted the investigation as part of ATF's mission to reduce violent crime and other threats to public safety.

Staples is scheduled to appear for arraignment before the United States Magistrate Judge on October 24, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

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**The indictment of a person by a Grand Jury is an accusation only and that person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.**

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