



Department of Justice

**United States Attorney David L. Huber
Western District of Kentucky**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2007
WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/KYW

CONTACT: SANDY FOCKEN
PHONE: (502) 582-5911
FAX: (502) 582-5097

**TAYLORSVILLE, KENTUCKY DRUG DEALER SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS'
IMPRISONMENT FOR INDOOR MARIJUANA GROW AND POSSESSION OF FIVE
FIREARMS**

- \$40,000 of marijuana

LOUISVILLE, KY - **Danny Lee Walden**, age 47, of Taylorsville, Kentucky, in Spencer County, was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in United States District Court, Louisville, Kentucky for violating federal drug and firearm laws, 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. Walden also agreed to forfeit numerous items, including firearms and firearms' parts. John G. Heyburn II, Chief Judge, United States District Court, also sentenced Walden to 4 years supervised release following incarceration. There is no parole in the federal judicial system.

On August 24, 2007, Walden, who has a prior felony marijuana conviction, pled guilty and admitted that all of his criminal conduct occurred in Spencer County, Kentucky, in the Western District of Kentucky. It is illegal under federal law for a convicted felon to possess or own a gun. Huber praised the efforts of the Kentucky State Police and the ATF who executed a search warrant at Walden's residence on October 3, 2005.

Police discovered an indoor growing operation at the residence for the purpose of growing and manufacturing 115 marijuana plants. The marijuana plants at maturity would yield processed marijuana worth approximately \$40,000 on the street. Police also found a personal

use quantity of a mixture or substance containing methamphetamine.

Walden also knowingly possessed five firearms, revolvers and rifles, in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime for which he may be prosecuted in a court of the United States:

<u>Manufacturer</u>	<u>Model</u>	<u>Caliber</u>	<u>Serial Number</u>
Marlin	Glenfield M-60	.22 rifle	19330668
Marlin	336	30-30 rifle	18039073
Sturm Ruger	Vaquero	.45 revolver	55-27352
Sturm Ruger	New Model Blackhawk	.41 revolver	47-19963
Savage Arms	877 Stevens	.22 rifle	D031849

The firearms were found in several places throughout Walden's residence.

In addition, police also found unassembled component parts of a machine gun, including the bolt carrier assembly, selector lever, disconnecter, hammer, trigger, and drop-in auto sear that Walden admitted he knowingly possessed.

Previously, on June 15, 2001, Walden was convicted of manufacturing marijuana, a Schedule I Controlled Substance, in case number 3:00CR-129-01-S, in the United States District Court for the Western District of Kentucky. The 2001 conviction was for a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year, that is, a felony.

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.

Assistant United States Attorney Jo E. Lawless prosecuted the case. The Louisville Field Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives conducted this investigation in partnership with the Kentucky State Police, as part of their mandated mission to reduce violent crime and other threats to public safety.

###