

# NEWS RELEASE



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## **CAPE GIRARDEAU MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL FIREARMS CHARGES**

January 15, 2008

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

**RYAN BLUNT**, age 33, pled guilty to one felony count of being a previously convicted felon in possession of a firearm. He appeared before United States District Judge Henry E. Autrey.

On August 1, 2007, law enforcement officers were called to a residence on North Spanish Street in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. The officers made contact with a woman who rented that residence and obtained her consent to search the home. During that search, the officers located and seized a Smith & Wesson, .38 caliber revolver loaded with six rounds of ammunition along with 88 additional rounds of ammunition of the same caliber. The officers spoke with the woman who rented the residence about the revolver. The woman stated that Ryan Blunt lived in the same residence and that the revolver belonged to Mr. Blunt.

Due to Blunt's previous felony convictions, he is prohibited from possessing firearms. He now faces a maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. Sentencing has been set for April 15, 2008.

Hanaway praised the Cape Girardeau, Missouri Police Department and the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives**. Assistant United States Attorney Keith D. Sorrell handled the prosecution for the Government.