

NEWS RELEASE

**FROM: Catherine L. Hanaway
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EAST PRAIRIE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS

April 15, 2008

An East Prairie, Missouri man pled guilty today to federal firearms charges, announced United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway.

DEWEY C. JOHNSTON, age 35, pled guilty to one felony count of being a previously convicted felon in possession of firearms. He appeared before United States District Judge Henry E. Autrey.

On October 2, 2006, law enforcement officers from Charleston, Missouri, made contact with Dewey C. Johnston during a vehicle stop. The officers were conducting another investigation at that time concerning the theft of three firearms. The officers searched Mr. Johnston's residence and found two of the firearms in his bedroom. Mr. Johnston was

interviewed. He admitted that he was in possession of all three firearms during September and/or October, 2006. Due to Johnston's previous felony convictions, he is prohibited from possessing firearms.

Johnston now faces a maximum punishment of 10 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. Sentencing has been set for July 22, 2008.

Hanaway praised the Charleston Department of Public Safety 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.