

NEWS RELEASE

**FROM: Catherine L. Hanaway
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SOUTHEAST MISSOURI MAN SENTENCED TO 12 MONTHS FOR UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS

June 9, 2008

A Southeast Missouri man was sentenced today for unlawful possession of firearms, announced United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway.

BERNARD STANFIELD, age 65, of Coldwater, Missouri, was sentenced to 12 months on three felony counts of being a previously convicted felon in possession of firearms. He appeared before United States District Judge Charles A. Shaw.

On February 27, 2007, Bernard Stanfield sold a Jennings, .380 caliber pistol and eleven rounds of ammunition to a Confidential Informant for \$200 at Mr. Stanfield's house in Wayne County, Missouri. An undercover officer working for the Missouri State Highway Patrol was also present during this transaction.

On March 6, 2007, Bernard Stanfield sold another Jennings, .380 caliber pistol to the Missouri State Highway Patrol undercover officer in exchange for \$300. This sale also took place at Mr. Stanfield's Wayne County residence.

On May 22, 2007, federal officers executed a federal search warrant at Mr. Stanfield's residence. The officers found five firearms in the residence, including a Titan, .25 caliber pistol, a Marlin, .22 caliber rifle, another Marlin, .22 caliber rifle, a Unique, 7.65 mm caliber pistol, and a Norinco, 7.62 mm caliber pistol. All of these firearms were seized. Mr. Stanfield returned to his home during the search and was interviewed. Mr. Stanfield admitted that he was in possession of all of the firearms seized on the day of the search.

Due to Mr. Stanfield's previous felony convictions, he is prohibited from possessing firearms.

Hanaway praised the Missouri State Highway Patrol 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.