

NEWS RELEASE

**FROM: Catherine L. Hanaway
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Missouri**



555 Independence, Cape Girardeau, MO 63703 (573) 334-3736

*For Further Information, Call:
Assistant U. S. Attorney Keith D. Sorrell*

PIEDMONT MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS

October 14, 2008

A Piedmont, Missouri man pled guilty today to unlawful possession of firearms, announced United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway.

JOHN M. TAYLOR, age 44, pled guilty to one felony count of being a previously convicted felon in possession of firearms. He appeared before United States District Henry E. Autrey.

An investigation into the possession of firearms by John M. Taylor was started in November, 2007, after a police officer received a report that Mr. Taylor had obtained a shotgun at a Piedmont, Missouri pawn shop. Based on that report, a federal search warrant was obtained for the residence of John M. Taylor. On December 18, 2007, that search warrant was executed at

his residence in Wayne County, Missouri. The officers found and seized six firearms during that search.

Due to Mr. Taylor's previous felony convictions, he is prohibited from possessing firearms. He now faces a maximum punishment of 10 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. Sentencing has been set for January 20, 2009.

Hanaway praised the Piedmont Police Department 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.