



## ***NEWS RELEASE***

### **UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA**

John L. Brownlee  
United States Attorney

Patricia A. Grisetti  
Media Contact

Thomas B. Mason Building  
105 Franklin Rd. S.W.  
Roanoke, Virginia 24011  
(540) 857-2250  
FAX (540) 857-2180

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#### **GUN DEALER SENTENCED TO 18 MONTHS IMPRISONMENT**

United States Attorney John L. Brownlee announced today that BILL WALLACE, age 48, of Mountain City, Tennessee, was sentenced today to 18 months imprisonment and a fine of \$1500 by a federal judge sitting in Abingdon, Virginia, on charges of illegally selling firearms.

WALLACE pled guilty on December 3, 2004, to charges of conspiracy and aiding and abetting James Edward Brown, age 63, of Zionville, North Carolina, in engaging in the business of dealing firearms without a license. WALLACE was a federally licensed firearms dealer and owner of the Army Surplus and Variety Store in Mountain City, Tennessee. The investigation revealed that WALLACE routinely sold firearms to Brown and other individuals without keeping documentation of the transactions, as required by federal law. Brown then transported the firearms to Chilhowie, Virginia, where he sold and traded them at Snapp's Trading Post.

BROWN pled guilty on August 30, 2004, to charges of conspiracy, engaging the business of dealing firearms without a license, and selling a firearm to a convicted felon. He was sentenced on January 21, 2005 to three years probation, 200 hours of community service, and a \$5000 fine.

The case arose from an investigation into illegal gun dealing at Snapp's Trading Post in Chilhowie, Virginia. The investigation was conducted by the Bristol Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in 2003. Six other men have also been convicted of illegal gun dealing in Virginia and Tennessee as a result of the investigation.

Assistant United States Attorney Jennifer Bockhorst prosecuted the case. For further information, please contact AUSA Bockhorst, at (276) 628-4161.