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**Project Safe Neighborhoods:
WEST HAVEN MAN WHO ILLEGALLY POSSESSED RIFLE IS
SENTENCED**

Kevin J. O'Connor, United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, announced that DANIEL PIERCE, age 47, of 372 Elm Street, West Haven, Connecticut, was sentenced today by Senior United States District Judge Ellen Bree Burns in New Haven to five years of probation for possession of a firearm by a previously convicted felon.

On April 12, 2005, PIERCE admitted that, on November 3, 2004, he possessed a Winchester Model 94 30-30 caliber rifle at the Department of Veterans Affairs Hospital, 950 Campbell Avenue in West Haven. PIERCE was involved in a fight at the West Haven VA and it was determined that he had the firearm inside his van. The Department of Veterans Affairs Police and the West Haven Police Department apprehended him at the scene. Prior to that date, PIERCE had been convicted of a felony offense for aggravated robbery.

It is a violation of federal law for a person previously convicted of a felony offense to possess a firearm that has moved in interstate or foreign commerce.

This matter was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and the Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Inspector General together with the West Haven Police Department. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Douglas P. Morabito.

The Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative is aimed at reducing gun violence, deterring illegal possession of guns, and improving the safety of residents in Connecticut's cities. Participants in the initiative include community members and organizations as well as federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. More information on the nationwide Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative can be found at www.psn.gov.

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