



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MARQUETTE, Michigan – November 30, 2004** – United States Attorney Margaret M. Chiara and Special Agent in Charge Valerie J. Goddard of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) announced today that Gary Allen McMaster, age 43, of Skandia, Michigan, was sentenced by Chief United States District Judge Robert Holmes Bell to two sixty-month terms of imprisonment to be served consecutively, three years' supervised release, a \$3,000 fine, and a special assessment of \$200.

On July 26, 2004, Mr. McMaster pled guilty to Counts 4 and 6 of an Indictment charging him with the transfer of a machinegun and use of a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking offense, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 922(o) and 924(c)(1)(A)(i), respectively. Mr. McMaster had also been charged with dealing in firearms without a federal license, possession of unregistered firearms, unlawful transfer of a National Firearms Act firearm, and possession with intent to deliver marijuana. These charges were dismissed pursuant to the plea agreement.

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“Many people do not realize that you have to be licensed by ATF in order to engage in the business of selling firearms,” stated Ms. Goddard. “Individuals can sell firearms from their personal collections, on occasion, but one must be federally licensed in order to conduct repetitive sales of firearms for the purpose of profit.”

Before becoming a federally licensed gun dealer, applicants are required to complete the application process, are subject to a background investigation, fingerprinting, as well as other measures, as required under federal law and regulations.

This case was the culmination of a collaborative investigation that spanned 12 months. Ms. Chiara expressed her appreciation for the investigative efforts of the ATF agents and the Upper Peninsula Substance Enforcement Team (UPSET). Assistant United States Attorney Paul D. Lochner prosecuted this case on behalf of the United States.

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