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**KANAWHA COUNTY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ILLEGALLY
POSSESSING FIREARMS**

CHARLESTON, W. Va. – A Kanawha County, West Virginia man pleaded guilty yesterday to a federal gun charge. Mark A. Staten, 37, of Sissonville, West Virginia, admitted to possessing three firearms after having been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence. Staten, who is scheduled to be sentenced on December 1, 2010, faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

The conviction stems from an investigation lead by the Kanawha County Sheriff's Department. On April 7, 2009, deputies responded to a domestic disturbance at Staten's Sissonville residence which he shared with his wife. Upon entering the home, deputies discovered two rifles and a shotgun hanging on the living room wall. Staten was prohibited from possessing a firearm by virtue of three previous convictions in Kanawha County Magistrate Court for misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence. Staten's wife was the victim in all three cases.

Staten admitted to a deputy that he knew he was prohibited from possessing firearms.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives assisted in the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Lisa G. Johnston is handling the prosecution.

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