



# NEWS RELEASE

Office of the  
United States Attorney  
for the  
District of Nebraska  
**Joe W. Stecher**

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March 2, 2009

United States Attorney Joe W. Stecher and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms announce the following information for the attention of the media:

**Event Triggering this Release:** On March 2, 2009, Trenton Smith was sentenced to 24 months in prison by the Honorable Laurie Smith Camp, United States District Judge, following his conviction for unlawful possession of a short shotgun and machinegun. He was also ordered to serve a 3 year term of supervised release following his release from prison and was ordered to forfeit the firearms he illegally possessed.

During the spring of 2008, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms conducted an investigation into the theft of 11 firearms from the Cabela's store in Sidney, Nebraska. The investigation caused the agents to focus on Trenton Smith who had worked at the store as a security guard during the time frame when the firearms disappeared.

On May 13, 2008, a search warrant was executed at Mr. Smith's home in Valentine, Nebraska, in an effort to locate the stolen firearms. The searching agents located 10 of the 11 stolen firearms as well as other merchandise that appeared to be stolen. During the search the agents also located a machinegun and short shotgun. The law requires such weapons to be registered to the defendant in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record. The machinegun and short shotgun were not registered to Mr. Smith.

As part of a plea agreement entered into between the United States and the defendant, Mr. Smith agreed to enter a plea of guilty in Cherry County District Court to a Class III felony theft charge in connection with the merchandise stolen from Cabelas. Mr. Smith has entered that plea of guilty and he is currently awaiting sentencing on those charges.

**Name of Defendant:** Trenton Smith

**AKA:**

**Age:** 35

**City of residence:** Valentine, Nebraska

**Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty):** Possession of an unregistered firearm. Maximum punishment of up to 10 years, a fine of \$250,000, both such fine and imprisonment, a term of supervised release of at least 3 years, and a \$100 special assessment; criminal forfeiture of the firearms

**Specific Location of Alleged Crime:** Valentine, Nebraska.

**Location of Arrest:** Valentine, Nebraska

**Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug:** NA

**Others Charged in Same Scheme:** NA

**Relevant Dates:**

**Date of Alleged Crime:** May 13, 2008

**Federal Arrest Date:** May 13, 2008

**Date Complaint Issued:** May 14, 2008

**Indictment Returned Date:** May 22, 2008

**Initial Appearance Date:** May 15, 2008

**Information filed and plea date:** Pleaded guilty on December 12, 2008

**Sentencing Date:** March 2, 2009

**Next Court Hearing Type and Date:** NA

**Assigned Magistrate Judge:** The Honorable F.A. Gossett, III

**Held without Bond, or Released from Custody:** Released

**In Continuous Custody Since:** NA

**Assigned District Court Judge:** The Honorable Laurie Smith Camp

**Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release:** JWS