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Southern District of West Virginia**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 14, 2011  
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**SCOTT DEPOT WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL GUN THEFT CHARGES**

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Casey Elizabeth Morris, 31, of Scott Depot, West Virginia, pleaded guilty today in federal court before United States District Judge Robert C. Chambers to theft of firearms. Morris admitted to stealing several firearms that belonged to her father-in-law from his Scott Depot residence at various times between October 2009 and March 17, 2010. Among the firearms that Morris admitted to stealing was a Smith and Wesson, Model SW40F, 40-caliber handgun; a Marlin Model 30AS, 30-30 caliber rifle; a Remington Model 7600, 270 caliber rifle; a Ruger Model 77, 270-caliber rifle; and an Excam Model GT27, 25-caliber pistol, among others.

Morris faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine when she is sentenced on May 31, 2011.

A joint investigation was conducted by members of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Putnam County Sheriff's Department. Assistant United States Attorney Gregory McVey is handling the prosecution.

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Neighborhoods. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide commitment to reduce gun crime in the United States by networking existing local programs targeting gun crime. The United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of West Virginia established "Hard Time for Gun Crime," which is a community-based initiative in conjunction with Project Safe Neighborhoods to reduce and prevent gun violence throughout southern West Virginia. "Hard Time for Gun Crime" is a partnership that includes the cooperation of neighborhood associations, social service and law enforcement agencies.

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