



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRINGFIELD MAN CHARGED IN FIVE BANK ROBBERIES

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Springfield, Mo., man was charged in federal court today with robbing five Springfield banks.

Santana D. Kirk, 26, of Springfield, Mo., was charged with five separate bank robberies, according to the criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Springfield.

Count One of the federal criminal complaint alleges that **Kirk** robbed Great Southern Bank on Feb. 21, 2002.

According to the affidavit filed in support of the complaint, **Kirk** took \$4,270 in that robbery. **Kirk**, wearing a black mask made from a t-shirt with holes cut out of it, allegedly jumped on top of the counter then to the floor on the other side, grabbed the teller and wrestled with him before taking money from the drawer located at the drive-through teller window. After stuffing the money in his pants, **Kirk** ran from the bank to a vehicle parked across the street at the Bass Pro parking lot, the affidavit says.

Count Two of the federal criminal complaint alleges that **Kirk** robbed Countryside Bank on July 18, 2002, using an inoperable toy replica of a handgun.

According to the affidavit filed in support of the complaint, **Kirk** took \$5,908 in that robbery. **Kirk** wore a similar mask when he entered the bank about 1:30 p.m., the affidavit says, removed a handgun from a blue plastic bag he was carrying, jumped over the teller counter and demanded that everyone lie on the floor. **Kirk** had trouble opening the teller drawers, the affidavit says, demanding that one of the tellers assist him. While placing the money in the bag, he dropped the handgun, which was subsequently determined to be a toy replica. **Kirk** demanded that one of the tellers give him her car keys, the affidavit says, but she did not have a car, so he

demanded other persons in the bank give him car keys. According to the affidavit, **Kirk** claimed to have a bomb and said he would kill one of the tellers; after one of the persons in the bank gave him car keys, he left the bank in that vehicle.

Count Three of the federal criminal complaint alleges that **Kirk** robbed Liberty Bank on July 25, 2002, using an inoperable toy replica of a handgun.

According to the affidavit filed in support of the complaint, **Kirk** took \$7,874 in that robbery. **Kirk** entered the bank about 3:15 p.m., the affidavit says, jumped over the teller counter and demanded that everyone lie on the floor. **Kirk** allegedly ordered two tellers to assist him with opening their teller drawers, then placed the money in a plastic bag. After he obtained the money, the affidavit says, **Kirk** jumped back across the teller counter and exited the bank. As he left the bank, the affidavit says, **Kirk** turned and threw the handgun on the floor; it was subsequently determined to be a toy replica.

Count Four of the federal criminal complaint alleges that **Kirk** robbed US Bank on Feb. 11, 2003, using an object that appeared to be a handgun.

According to the affidavit filed in support of the complaint, **Kirk** took \$4,270 in that robbery. **Kirk** again wore a mask and carried what appeared to be a gun, the affidavit says. Upon entering the bank, the affidavit alleges, **Kirk** ordered all the employees to lie down on the ground then jumped over the counter. He allegedly instructed one of the tellers to open her teller drawer, took the money from the draw and placed it in the plastic bag, repeating those instructions with a second teller. **Kirk** asked the teller where the bank's vault was located, but about that time the telephone rang, which apparently alarmed him, the affidavit says, and he quickly fled from the bank. Police officers later recovered a toy revolver in a field located behind the bank.

Count Five of the federal criminal complaint alleges that **Kirk** robbed US Bank on March 6, 2003, using an object that appeared to be a handgun.

According to the affidavit filed in support of the complaint, **Kirk** took \$3,709 in that robbery. As **Kirk**, wearing a mask, entered the bank around 2:30 p.m., the affidavit says, he met a customer exiting the bank. **Kirk** allegedly forced the door open and placed what appeared to be a handgun to the customer's head, ordering the customer to get down on the floor. **Kirk** then yelled similar instructions to the employees and customers in the bank's lobby, the affidavit says. **Kirk** allegedly jumped over the teller counter and took money from two separate teller drawers before leaving the bank.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the complaint are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Douglas C. Bunch. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Springfield, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow