

SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION



4400 Broad River Road
Columbia, S.C. 29221

Contact: Jennifer Timmons
jtimmons@sled.sc.gov
Office: (803) 896-7056
After Hours: (803) 737-9000

For Immediate Release

December 3, 2009

SLED AGENTS IDENTIFY, LOCATE AND CAPTURE SERIAL BANK ROBBER IN MYRTLE BEACH

South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) Agents have captured a serial bank robber, suspected of committing at least seven of his heists across several jurisdictions in two states.

Jonathan Lee Thompson was arrested around 9 o'clock Tuesday night at the America's Best Value Inn and Suites on Highway 501 in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Thompson was alone at the time and used a box cutter to cut his wrist during his arrest. SLED Agents immediately administered first aid until EMS arrived on scene.

Thompson was taken to a local hospital where he was treated for his injuries and later released.

He has been booked at the J. Rueben Long Detention Center in Conway, S.C.

SLED Agents with the Investigative Support Unit (ISU) located Thompson with the help of members of the Criminal Analytical Team (CAT) from The South Carolina Information and Intelligence Center (SCIIC).

Last month, analysts gathered and shared intelligence information with other law enforcement agencies and soon determined that one individual was responsible for several bank robberies in North and South Carolina.

Analysts then sent surveillance video photographs from one of the bank robberies to The SC Crime Stoppers Network and media outlets.

Within minutes, The SC Crime Stoppers Network received tips on Thompson's identity.

Based on multiple tips, leads and sources of intelligence, SCIIC analysts identified the robber as Jonathan Lee Thompson.

With that information, SLED agents used advanced investigative techniques to locate Thompson inside the hotel room in Myrtle Beach, where he was registered under his name.

It is believed, through the gathering of intelligence information, that Thompson committed these crimes after either losing a job or being fired from a business in Charlotte, N.C.

Thompson has a criminal history of robbing banks and served time at Leavenworth Penitentiary in Kansas in 2004.

Bank Robberies:

Law enforcement in North and South Carolina believe that Thompson is responsible for at least seven bank robberies in Greenville S.C, Spartanburg, S.C., Florence, S.C., and Wilmington, N.C. beginning this past September.

In each instance, the robber threatened bank clerks by saying that he had a weapon and demanded money.

Currently, The Wilmington Police Department has three outstanding warrants for Thompson's arrest.

Police are also investigating whether Thompson committed additional bank robberies in North Carolina.

According to intelligence information, here is a listing of the dates and locations of Thompson's crimes:

September 23, 2009 - BB & T, Wilmington, N.C.

October 9, 2009 - BB & T, Spartanburg, S.C.

October 13, 2009 - Carolina First, Greenville, S.C.

October 19, 2009 - Wachovia, Spartanburg, S.C.

November 3, 2009 - Bank of America, Wilmington, N.C.

November 10, 2009 - Bank of America, Wilmington, N.C.

November 13, 2009 - Wachovia, Florence, S.C.

The United States Marshal's Service has an outstanding probation violation warrant for Thompson's arrest.

The Horry County Police Department, The Wilmington Police Department, The State Bureau of Investigation in North Carolina (SBI) and The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and The United States Secret Service (USSS) assisted with this investigation.

For more information on the crimes in Wilmington, N.C. call the Wilmington Police Department's PIO, Lucy Crockett at (910) 343-3602.

For more information on the crime in Spartanburg, call Lt. Ron Cantrell with the Spartanburg Public Safety Department (864) 596-2860.

For more information on the crime in Greenville County, call the Greenville County Sheriff's Office PIO, Matthew Armstrong at (864) 467-5025 or (864) 419-071.

For more information on the crime in Florence, call Major Carlos Raines at the Florence Police Department at (843) 676-8800. ext. 1065.

For more information on the federal probation warrant, call the United States Marshal's Service at (803) 765-5821.

For a booking photograph of Thompson, visit www.horrycounty.org. On the left hand side on the home page, click on "Bookings and Releases."