U.S. Department of Justice

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Eastern District of Arkansas

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GUILTY VERDICT FOR MAN WITH CONCEALED KNIFE AT LITTLE ROCK NATIONAL AIRPORT

Little Rock, AR -- U. S. Attorney Bud Cummins and Jerry Henderson, Federal Security Director, announced that Robert Leonard Wood, Jr., was convicted by a jury in Federal District Court today for violating federal laws regarding carrying a concealed weapon into the airport security area intending to board a flight. Mr. Wood violated Title 49, United States Code Section 49:46505(b)(1) which makes it a federal crime to possess a concealed weapon within their reach while boarding an aircraft. The punishment for such a crime is not less than 10 years imprisonment and a fine of up to $250,000.

The incident took place on April 22, 2004 when Mr. Wood was attempting to board an aircraft at the Little Rock Airport while wearing a belt that also contained a concealed knife. Wood set off alarms twice while entering the security area before the Transportation and Security Administration (TSA) screener using a hand wand discovered that the belt buckle was actually the handle of a concealed knife. Professor Jeff Walker, an expert in counter-terrorism

matters, testified that the knife belt was a dangerous offensive weapon that had no purpose other than as a weapon.

The TSA security laws were enacted to not only prevent individuals from causing harm to a flight crew or passengers, but to prevent fear to other fliers and disruption of the flight should it be known an individual indeed had a knife on board an aircraft. United States Attorney Bud Cummins stated, "Our office works hand-in-hand with TSA personnel to ensure that these important security laws are enforced and that travelers in Arkansas are safe on their flights."

This case was investigated jointly by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Little Rock Police Department.

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