

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Maryland Man Sentenced to 300 Months for Taking Hostages and
Attempted \$3 million Extortion of Atlantic City, NJ Casino

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TRENTON – A Maryland man was sentenced to 300 months, which is 25 years, in federal prison today for taking hostages in attempting to extort \$3 million dollars from the Showboat Hotel & Casino in Atlantic City, New Jersey, U.S. Attorney Paul J. Fishman announced.

U.S. District Judge Peter G. Sheridan also ordered David Kilkeary, 39, of Crofton, Maryland, to serve five years of supervised release. Kilkeary has been incarcerated since his arrest on November 14, 2007 at the scene of the crime.

On Aug. 19, 2009, Kilkeary pleaded guilty before Judge Sheridan to a three-count indictment charging him with threats, kidnapping, and extortion. As part of his guilty plea, Kilkeary admitted that on November 13, 2007, he drove from Maryland to Atlantic City, New Jersey. At approximately 10:30 p.m., he used a pellet gun (which appeared to be a semiautomatic handgun), a hoax suicide bomb with a detonator, hoax bombs placed in the Showboat, and a disguise to hijack a casino shuttle bus and take hostages. The defendant pointed the handgun at the hostages, threatened to kill the hostages, and threatened to blow up the bus and casino unless the casino delivered \$ 3 million in one hundred dollars bills to him. The defendant further admitted that he intended to set the bus aflame, and drive it into the Atlantic City inlet. The defendant then planned to complete his escape using scuba gear to reach a beach across the inlet, near where he had a getaway car parked.

Over the course of an approximately six hour overnight standoff between the defendant and law enforcement, the hostages either escaped or were released. During the standoff, the Showboat evacuated approximately 2,000 patrons due to the defendant's bomb threats. The defendant eventually surrendered to law enforcement.

In determining the actual sentence, Judge Sheridan consulted the advisory United States Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The Judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Fishman credited Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, under the direction of Acting Special Agent in Charge Kevin B. Cruise in Newark, New Jersey, and police officers of the Atlantic City Police Department, with the investigation leading to the defendant's guilty plea.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Ronald Chillemi of the U.S. Attorney's Securities & Health Care Fraud Unit.

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Defense Counsel: Michael Engle, Esquire, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania