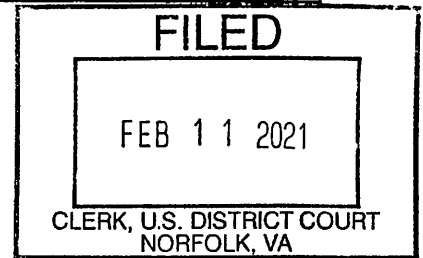


UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the  
Eastern District of Virginia



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )

v. )

WILLIAM DOUGLAS RANKIN )

Case No. 2:21-MJ-52

*Defendant(s)*

**CRIMINAL COMPLAINT**

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. On or about the date(s) of February 8, 2021 in the city of Norfolk, in the Eastern District of Virginia, the defendant(s) violated:

| <i>Code Section</i>           | <i>Offense Description</i>  |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 18 U.S.C. § 1114(3)           | Attempted Murder of a Person Assisting an Officer or Employee of the United States Government in the Performance of Official Duties |
| 18 U.S.C. § 924(c)(1)(A)(iii) | Possession and Discharge of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Crime of Violence   |
| 18 U.S.C. § 111               | Assault of a Person Assisting an Officer or Employee of the United States Government in the Performance of Official Duties          |
| 18 U.S.C. § 930(b)            | Possession of Firearms in a Federal Facility  |
| 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1)         | Felon in Possession of a Firearm and Ammunition   |

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

Continued on the attached sheet. (Please see attached Affidavit)

Reviewed by AUSA/SAUSA:

John F. Butler  
Assistant United States Attorney

Complainant

Justin Goodrich, Special Agent, FBI  
*Printed name and title*

Attested to by the applicant in accordance with the requirements of Fed. R. Crim. P. 4.1 by telephone.

Date: February 11, 2021

*Judge's signature*

City and state: Norfolk, Virginia

Lawrence Leonard, U. S. Magistrate Judge  
*Printed name and title*

**AFFIDAVIT**

Your affiant, Justin Goodrich, being duly sworn and deposed, states the following:

1. I am a Special Agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and have served in that capacity since February 2010. I am currently assigned to the Norfolk Field Office and charged with investigating violations of violent crimes, to include robberies, murders, and abductions, as well as gang and drug crimes. These investigations required me to apply for search and arrest warrants in federal court.

2. I am submitting this affidavit in support of an application for an arrest warrant and a criminal complaint charging WILLIAM DOUGLAS RANKIN with: 1) Attempted Murder of a Person Assisting an Officer or Employee of the United States Government in the Performance of Official Duties, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1114(3); 2) Possession and Discharge of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Crime of Violence, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c)(1)(A)(iii); 3) Assault of a Person Assisting an Officer or Employee of the United States Government in the Performance of Official Duties, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 111; 4) Possession of Firearms in a Federal Facility, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 930(b); and 5) Felon in Possession of a Firearm and Ammunition, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g)(1).

3. Since this affidavit is being submitted only for the limited purpose of securing a criminal complaint and arrest warrant, I have not included each and every fact known concerning this investigation, but have set forth only those facts that are necessary to establish probable cause.

4. I am familiar with the facts and circumstances of this investigation because I personally participated in the investigation, and I have reviewed reports made by other law enforcement officers taking part in the investigation. On the basis of this familiarity, and on the

basis of other information that has been reviewed and determined to be reliable, I provide the following facts in support of probable cause for this complaint:

5. On February 8, 2021, at approximately 3:27 P.M., WILLIAM RANKIN entered the Social Security Administration (“SSA”) building located at 5850 Lake Herbert Drive, in Norfolk, Virginia. As one approaches the parking lot, the words “Social Security Administration” are set in large block letters along the top of the building.

6. Approximately 150 people work at the SSA building located at 5850 Lake Herbert Drive. Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the majority of them were not present on February 8, 2021. Approximately 68 of those people are federal employees, including a number of federal Administrative Law Judges. There are also 72 Virginia state employees assigned to the building as well as five contracted physicians, two contracted cleaners, and multiple security officers from Paragon Systems. The SSA personnel are located in a space leased by the United States Government. The Federal Protective Service (“FPS”) is the police force for the Department of Homeland Security and is responsible for policing, securing, and ensuring a safe environment for federal agencies, including the SSA. FPS contracts with private security companies, like Paragon Systems, to guard many federal agencies. I.W. is a security guard employed by Paragon Systems to assist FPS and its personnel in the performance of their official duties to police, secure, and ensure the safe environment of federal employees who work at the SSA building at 5850 Lake Herbert Drive. Because I.W. protects the SSA’s building and employees, he also assists federal employees of the SSA in the performance of their official duties.

7. Moments after entering the SSA building, RANKIN, who was holding a rifle bag over his left shoulder was met by I.W., the security guard on duty at the time. RANKIN yelled, “I want my money!” The security guard informed RANKIN that due to COVID-19, the building was

closed, and that RANKIN would need to call the number listed on the front door. RANKIN then clarified that he was there because he wanted his mother's money. The security guard explained again that no one could help him at the office, and that he needed to call the posted number. RANKIN then pulled out a .380 pistol and said he was not leaving without his mother's money.

8. Once the firearm was brandished, the security guard attempted to calm RANKIN; however, RANKIN became more agitated and demanded that the security guard remove his weapon from its holster and place it on the ground. The security guard told RANKIN he could not do that, at which point RANKIN fired at least five rounds at the security guard at close range—within approximately six feet. The security guard was shot in the left arm, left shoulder, left leg, right leg, left upper chest, and lower abdomen. A bulletproof vest saved the security guard from the shots to his upper chest and lower abdomen. After firing, RANKIN turned and began to move to the front door, at which point the security guard was able to draw his weapon and engage RANKIN. After the security guard fired multiple rounds that struck RANKIN, RANKIN stopped and remained seated at the entryway next to his rifle bag.



9. Despite being shot multiple times, the security guard was still able to get in the elevator and reach the second floor of the building where he informed others that he had been shot, and to call 911. He then went back downstairs to watch RANKIN until back-up officers arrived.

Both the security guard and RANKIN were taken to the hospital after Norfolk Police and emergency personnel arrived on scene. The security guard is fully expected to recover.

10. Review of the security footage from the SSA building and an interview with the Security Guard confirmed the order in which the events occurred.

11. Examination of the bag carried by RANKIN revealed that it held one 9mm Hi Point rifle and approximately 600 rounds of ammunition, including nine boxes of 9mm ammo and three fully loaded extended 9mm magazines. The bag also contained three unopened prepackaged store-bought sandwiches and three unopened beer bottles.

12. Once RANKIN's identity was confirmed by law enforcement, officers conducted a search of his house and interviewed his wife. At the house, several empty boxes of 9mm ammunition were located that matched the make of the rounds in the magazines recovered at the crime scene. RANKIN's wife explained that RANKIN had been dealing with Social Security over the phone for the past several months regarding his mother's Social Security benefits.

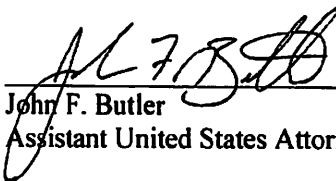
13. WILLIAM RANKIN was convicted of a felony in Kerrville, Texas, on April 14, 2005, for Possession of a Controlled Substance, and at the time of the offenses described in this affidavit knew he had previously been convicted of a felony.

14. Based on the information set forth above, I believe there is probable cause to charge WILLIAM DOUGLAS RANKIN with 1) Attempted Murder of a Person Assisting an Officer or Employee of the United States Government in the Performance of Official Duties in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1114(3); 2) Possession and Discharge of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Crime of Violence in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c)(1)(A)(iii); 3) Assault of a Person Assisting an Officer or Employee of the United States Government in the Performance of Official Duties in violation of Title 18, United States Code,

Section 111; 4) Possession of Firearms in a Federal Facility in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 930(b); and 5) Felon in Possession of a Firearm and Ammunition in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g)(1), and ask that a warrant be issued for his arrest.

  
Justin Goodrich  
Special Agent, FBI

Read and Reviewed:

  
John F. Butler  
Assistant United States Attorney

Sworn to and Subscribed before me on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of February 2021.

  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
at Norfolk, Virginia.