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FORMER SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY DEPUTY SHERIFF PLEADS GUILTY TO ARMED BANK ROBBERY AND OTHER FEDERAL FELONY OFFENSES

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced that TIMOTHY JAMES KELLY, 46, of Ripon, California, pleaded guilty today to armed bank robbery and other federal offenses before United States District Judge Lawrence K. Karlton.

The case is being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Elk Grove Police Department, and Police Departments in Fresno, Merced, Santa Clara and San Francisco.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Rodriguez, who is prosecuting the case, based on law enforcement investigation into six different robberies occurring in 2006, KELLY was identified as a suspect. On November 9, 2006, KELLY fled when law enforcement attempted to contact him, leading law enforcement on a high speed chase that ended when KELLY crashed his vehicle near the intersection of Highway 20 and Murphy Road in San Joaquin County. KELLY was then arrested by FBI Special Agents, Ripon Police Department officers, and other members of the Sacramento Violent Crimes Task Force.

KELLY pleaded guilty to the armed bank robbery of a Wells Fargo Bank in Santa Clara, California, on September 1, 2006; to robbery of a Bank of America branch in Elk Grove, California, on October 13, 2006; to using and carrying a firearm during a violent crime (the Wells Fargo armed bank robbery), and to being a felon in possession of a firearm in Ripon, California on November 9, 2006 (the date of KELLY's arrest). According to court documents, KELLY is also responsible for four additional bank robberies which will be considered at sentencing. KELLY is a former Deputy Sheriff for the San Joaquin Sheriff's Office who, after resigning in 1994 from the Sheriff's Office, suffered a felony conviction for filing false police reports.

KELLY is scheduled to be sentenced in Sacramento on Tuesday, May 8, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. before Judge Karlton. He faces a maximum of 25 years in prison for the armed bank robbery charge, a maximum of 20 years in prison for the bank robbery charge, a maximum of 5 years consecutive imprisonment for the use of a firearm charge, and a maximum of 10 years in prison for the felon in possession charge. However, the actual sentence will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables, and any applicable statutory sentencing factors. KELLY was remanded into custody after entry of his guilty pleas.

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