

# NEWS

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United States Department of Justice  
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***Christopher J. Christie, U.S. Attorney***

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***More Information?*** Contact the Assistant U.S. Attorney or other contact listed below to see if more information is available.

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## Brother Sentenced 71 Months in Prison For String of Bank Burglaries

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(More)

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CAMDEN – An Egg Harbor man was sentenced to 71 months in federal prison today for his leadership role in a string of southern New Jersey bank burglaries that he committed with his two brothers, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

U.S. District Judge Renée M. Bumb also ordered John Earl Anderson, 42, to pay \$260,887 in restitution. Anderson has been detained without bail since his arrest on June 25, 2007.

On Feb. 19, 2008, Anderson pleaded guilty before Judge Bumb to a four-count Superseding Indictment that charged him with four-counts of bank larceny. At his plea hearing, Anderson admitted that he participated with two brothers, Samuel Anderson, 45, of Egg Harbor City, and Donald Lee Britton, 47, of Browns Mills, to break into various banks to steal money from ATMs and teller drawers. Anderson also admitted that they stole the necessary equipment used to commit the burglaries.

On Oct. 10, 2007, both Samuel Anderson and Britton pleaded guilty before Judge Bumb to separate one-count Informations that charged bank larceny. Judge Bumb detained Anderson and Britton pending sentencing. On June 23, 2008, Judge Bumb sentenced Britton to 46 months in prison and ordered him to pay \$162,364 in restitution. Samuel Anderson is scheduled to be sentenced before Judge Bumb tomorrow, Aug. 5 at 10 a.m.

At their plea hearings, both Andersons and Britton admitted on April 29, 2007, they went to the First Bank of Williamstown. Once at the bank, they approach the bank and cut the telephone lines in order to disable the bank's alarm system. Samuel Anderson acted as the “look-out” to see if police responded the alarm, while John Earl and Britton walked to a nearby construction business to steal tools, including a crow bar, an ax, a pair of shears, and welding equipment to use to break into the bank and the bank’s safe. John Earl and Britton also stole a truck that they used to transport the stolen equipment back to the bank. Upon returning to the bank, they used the welding equipment in an attempt to open the main safe. Eventually, they gave up trying to cut open the safe and took approximately \$1,800 from a teller’s drawer.

John Earl admitted that he and Samuel also burglarized a Wachovia Bank in Egg Harbor City on June 4, 2007. John Earl admitted that they used a stolen acetylene torch to cut into the ATM machine and steal approximately \$40,000 in cash from the ATM.

Furthermore, John Earl admitted that on June 21, 2007, he and Samuel were driven to a Wachovia Bank in Paterson. When they arrived, they cut the telephone lines into the bank to disable the alarm system and broke a door to enter the bank. They then broke into a gas station near the bank and stole welding equipment. When they returned to the bank, they attempted to use the equipment to cut into an ATM safe inside the bank.

John Earl also admitted burglarizing a Wachovia Bank in Egg Harbor Township with Britton on Dec. 12, 2005. Using a stolen acetylene torch, they broke into the ATM machine located near the drive through area and stole approximately \$80,000 in cash.

In determining the actual sentence, Judge Bumb consulted the advisory U.S. 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.

Christie credited Special Agents of the FBI's Atlantic City Resident Agency, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Weysan Dun in Newark, with the investigation.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jason M. Richardson of the Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense Attorney: M.W. Pinsky, Esq. Haddon Township