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NEWS RELEASE

For Release: July 5, 2007

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MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA - Sheldon J. Sperling, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Oklahoma, announced today that WILLIAM SCOTT KRAMER, age 37, of Tahlequah, Oklahoma, pled guilty to Giving False Information or Hoax, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, § 1038(a)(1).

“The charges arose from an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol Bomb Squad, the Northeastern State University (NSU) Police Department, and the city of Tahlequah police and fire departments,” stated U.S. Attorney Sperling.

“The affidavit underlying the federal complaint, asserts the following,” U.S. Attorney Sperling reported. “On April 25, 2007, a note and a hoax device were found in the University Center cafeteria area. The defendant, an employee of Sodexo (food service for NSU), was identified from surveillance video as having been in the area around the time of the incident. KRAMER was questioned by NSU Police Department personnel the following day and allegedly admitted to writing and placing the note and the hoax device at the University Center cafeteria near the trash cans.”

“KRAMER made his initial appearance before Magistrate Judge Kimberly E. West in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma in Muskogee on April 27, 2007. He waived his right to a preliminary hearing and was released on bail, pursuant to a recommendation by the U.S. Probation Office and a series of restrictive conditions set by the court.”

“The law permits detention if a defendant is likely to flee or pose a danger to the community. Under the unique facts relevant to this defendant, the court could not so find. The alleged hoax was taken very seriously by law enforcement and university officials. The final chapter is yet to be written in this case,” recalled U.S. Attorney Sperling.

“The Honorable Kimberly E. West, United States Magistrate Judge in the Eastern District of Oklahoma, accepted KRAMER’s guilty plea, and ordered the completion of a presentence report. Sentencing will be scheduled after the completion of the report. Federal sentencing guidelines allow for up to five (5) years imprisonment and/or up to \$250,000.00 in fines. Assistant United States Attorney Paul Hess represented the government at today’s hearing.”

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