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For Immediate Release:

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KCSO Press Release #05-002/125

Courthouse security heightened following threats; suspect now in custody

Port Orchard, Wash. – Responding to a report of threats to harm, law enforcement agencies serving the City of Port Orchard and unincorporated South Kitsap increased security at the Kitsap County Courthouse on Wednesday (02/02/2005).

Steps were taken to increase both internal and external security measures on the courthouse campus without severely affecting regular business operations. The courthouse campus was not evacuated. The general public was allowed access into the courthouse.

A 37 year-old transient male, identified as Phillip Gregory Armstrong, was subsequently arrested by Sheriff's patrol deputies at approximately 1:00 a.m. this morning, based upon probable cause established by Sheriff's detectives.

An initial complaint report was received by Kitsap County Central Communications (CenCom), the county's 911 emergency dispatch center, Wednesday, from a mental health professional with the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS).

The health care professional, a psychiatrist who performs psychological examinations for DSHS, was interviewing Armstrong when the man made a number of verbal utterances about placing/exploding a bomb in the courthouse, harming law enforcement and security personnel and killing himself.

The psychiatrist believed, in his opinion, that the threats made by his patient were credible, based upon Armstrong's statements about possibly having access to weapons or explosives. According to the mental health professional Armstrong verbalized anger concerning issues involving the federal government. When the psychiatrist informed Armstrong that he would have to inform civil authorities about the threats, the suspect fled the interviewer's office.

Kitsap County Sheriff's Office detectives initiated an immediate investigation, following-up on original police reports. Armstrong was known to the Sheriff's Office from previous criminal contacts. He is a convicted felon, having been found guilty of unlawful imprisonment (class C felony) in 2003. He was sentenced to 40 days in jail followed by 12 months of community supervision. He previously had a concealed carry pistol license. That license has been revoked.

It is unknown, at this time, whether or not the suspect actually had access to any firearms or explosives.

Armstrong was booked into the Kitsap County Jail on charges of:

- (1) Making threats to bomb (class B felony)
- (2) Failure to register as a kidnapping offender (class C felony)

Armstrong's bail amount was set initially at \$250,000. Armstrong is expected to make an initial appearance in Kitsap County Superior Court at 3:00 p.m. today.

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