

\$40,000 reward offered in bank robberies

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DETROIT -- The Detroit office of the FBI hopes a \$ **40,000 reward** will help them catch a pair of **bank** robbers dubbed the "AK-47 bandits."

FBI officials say the pair, who might have help from a getaway driver, is bold and brazen. Andrew Arena, special agent **in** charge, is hoping someone who knows the robbers will turn them **in** and help get them off the street.

The pair is suspected **in** 10 **bank robberies** since March 2006.

Arena said the robbers have become more violent **in** their latest crimes, shooting a **bank** employee at a Chase **Bank** branch on Schoenherr **in** Sterling Heights on Nov. 14.

That employee, a woman **in** her late 40s, is recovering at home from a bullet wound to the leg.

"Our concern is that this is not going to end here," said Arena during a news conference Tuesday at the FBI Detroit office at the McNamara Building near downtown.

Officials say the robbers have assaulted other **bank** employees during their **robberies** as well.

Arena said his concern is that the **robberies** will turn more violent with the quick-moving bandits.

"They've shown a progression **in** violence," he said.

The robbers are described as: a black male with a medium complexion, 5-foot-8 to 6 feet tall, thin build, black bandana over the face, black fur coat, black ski cap, wearing dark jeans and an earring. He was carrying a pistol.

The second suspect is described as a six-foot-tall black male wearing a Scarface T-shirt, black fur coat, black shoes with white laces, black hat and black bandana carrying an AK-47.

Anyone with information on the pair is asked to call the Detroit office of the FBI at (313) 965-2323 or Crimestoppers at 1-800-SPEAKUP.

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