

# Cops cuff man using AK-47 to break into car

**By Ralph Bartholdt**

Published: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 5:09 PM PST

A Coeur d'Alene man who used the butt of an assault rifle to break into his own car Sunday was met with concern by local police.

Donald A. Bird was forced to the ground at gunpoint on Seventh Street as St. Maries city police officer Brad Harmon called for back up.

Using the stock of an assault rifle, the man broke the front passenger window on an older model Pontiac parked in front of the Post Office, police said.

A passerby alerted officers before noon after seeing the man place an assault rifle on the top of the maroon car and case the vehicle.

The man used the AK-47 rifle to smash a window at about the time Officer Harmon arrived on scene.

"He took him down at gunpoint," said St. Maries Police Chief Fred Cruzan.

Mr. Bird explained to the officer that he was selling firearms at the St. Maries gun show a block away at the Eagles. He said he had locked his keys inside his car.

Despite the short period of high anxiety, the man harbored no ill will toward the officer, Chief Cruzan said.

"The guy completely understood," said the chief. "He said he realized now how this looks; breaking a car window with an AK-47."

Police said the man's driver's license was suspended and the car had fictitious license plates.

He was issued a warning for both, and was prohibited from driving the car.

"He got a ride back to Coeur d'Alene with the tow truck," said Chief Cruzan.