

Charges filed against shooting suspect

Prosecutor labels Choate a
'flight risk' because he was set
to fly to Korea for military duty

By Christina Knott

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Jason P. Choate was charged with first-degree assault and armed criminal action on Saturday for the shooting outside Jefferson City's Steak and Shake Friday.

According to police, Choate, 29, shot Brian Jenkins at 1:17 a.m. Friday and was arrested at 2:25 a.m.

The probable cause statement details that Jenkins was with his girlfriend, Amanda Moore, at Spectator's Bar when the defendant's brother, Christopher Choate, got into a verbal and physical fight with the victim.

After both parties were asked to leave Spectator's by security staff, they agreed to meet at the Steak and Shake parking lot on the same street.

There, Christopher Choate and Jenkins again got into a physical altercation at which point the defendant removed a handgun from his vehicle glove box and shot Jenkins through the arm and into his torso.

The defendant, Jason Choate, was attempting drive away when Moore reached through the window of his car and raked the right side of his face with her fingernails.

Choate then pistol-whipped Moore on the right side of her head three or four times and dragged her across the parking lot, attempting to get her off the car.

Cole County Prosecuting Attorney Bill Tackett said Jenkins survived five hours of surgery at University of Missouri Hospital in Columbia.

The hospital would not give a condition for Jenkins Saturday evening.

If Jenkins dies, the charges will be changed, Tackett said.

Each of Choate's charges carry a possible life sentence, with three years to life for armed criminal action and 10-30 years or life for first-degree assault.

Tackett said his office is requesting no bond be set as Choate is scheduled to fly to Korea on Monday for military duty and is therefore a flight risk.