



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OPERATION TARMAC
FORMER KC INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WORKER
PLEADS GUILTY TO USING FALSE
SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a former employee of a firm contracted to work at Kansas City International Airport pleaded guilty in federal court today to using a false Social Security number for the purpose of obtaining employment.

Elvin Joel Hernandez, 33, address unknown, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this morning to an indictment that was returned by a federal grand jury on Feb. 26, 2003

Hernandez admitted that he used a false Social Security number when he signed an application for employment with ACM, Inc. on June 20, 2002. ACM, Inc. is a janitorial company that services the FedEx warehouse cargo facility at KCI.

This case is part of an Anti-Terrorism Task Force project called Operation Tarmac. Launched in August, 2002, Operation Tarmac was a joint law enforcement investigation that involved several federal agencies as well as the KCI Airport Police and other state and local law enforcement agencies. According to Graves, the joint task force conducted background checks of more than 5,000 individuals who had been issued identification badges granting them security access to various areas at KCI, including everything from baggage handlers to construction workers to cab drivers.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Sheryle L. Jeans. The case was investigated by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service-Criminal Investigation Division, the Social Security Administration-Office of Inspector General, the Transportation Security Administration, and the Federal Aviation Administration.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow