



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OPERATION TARMAC
WORKER AT KCI AIRPORT PLEADS GUILTY
TO FALSIFYING INFORMATION ON JOB APPLICATION

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an employee contracted to work at Kansas City International Airport pleaded guilty in federal court today to making false statements on his criminal history records check. Today's conviction is the result of an Anti-Terrorism Task Force project called Operation Tarmac.

Adrian Jose Mendoza, 23, of Liberty, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., this morning to one count of making false and fraudulent statements by signing a criminal history records check claiming he had not been convicted of any disqualifying criminal offense in any jurisdiction during the 10 years prior to the date of his application. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any person to make materially false statements in matters within the jurisdiction of the federal government. **Mendoza** has a 1998 Clay County, Mo., conviction for stealing a motor vehicle, which is a Class C felony.

Mendoza was originally charged with making the false statement in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on June 11, 2003, in Kansas City.

As a result of pleading guilty, **Mendoza** may face a sentence of up to five years in federal prison without parole. His sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

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 6,000 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.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Sheryle L. Jeans. The case was investigated by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization, 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

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