



NEWS RELEASE

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WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OPERATION TARMAC
FORMER KC INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WORKER
PLEADS GUILTY TO
MAKING A FALSE STATEMENT

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a former employees of a firm contracted to work at Kansas City International Airport pleaded guilty in federal court today to making a false statement regarding his criminal history at the time he applied for employment.

Phillip Nelson Suddarth, 41, of Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to one count of making a materially false and fraudulent statement when he signed a Criminal History Records Check for the airport on May 23, 2002. **Suddarth** was employed by Executive Beechcraft,

By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Suddarth** admitted that he signed an application for an identification/access badge that would allow him unescorted access to secured areas of the airport. As part of the application process, Graves explained, **Suddarth** was required to sign a form stating that he had not been convicted of one or more disqualifying criminal offenses listed on the form. Although he signed the form, **Suddarth** has a 1994 criminal felony conviction for possession of cocaine in Platte County.

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