



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, January 31, 2008

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PASSENGER ON AIRPLANE PLEADS GUILTY TO ASSAULT OF A FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Orlando, Florida - United States Attorney ROBERT E. O'NEILL today announced that RYAN SCOTT HADDAD, a 22 year old resident of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, pled guilty to one count of Assaulting a Flight Attendant. The maximum penalties HADDAD faces at sentencing is 6 months' imprisonment and a fine of \$5,000.

According to court documents, on October 9, 2007, **HADDAD** was a passenger on AirTran Airways Flight 617 from Philadelphia to Orlando. **HADDAD** was seated in Row 25. Approximately one hour into the flight, after the beverage service, the flight attendants were collecting the trash throughout the airplane. As the flight attendants were passing Row 25, a female flight attendant thought that she had hit **HADDAD** with the service cart, as **HADDAD** had his feet in the aisle. When the flight attendant leaned over to ask **HADDAD** if he was alright, he grabbed her left breast with his right hand. The flight attendant grabbed **HADDAD**'s right arm, which was closest to her, and said, "Do not touch me." After the flight attendant let go of **HADDAD**'s arm, he again grabbed her left breast. The flight attendant grabbed defendant **HADDAD**'s left hand and said twice, "Do not touch me." The flight attendant immediately reported this to the airplane captain and one of two Federal Bureau of Investigation special agents who were traveling on the airplane. One of the

special agents went to sit by **HADDAD** for the remainder of the flight. **HADDAD** was arrested at Orlando International Airport upon his arrival.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney I. Randall Gold.