

News Release

*United States Attorney
District of Rhode Island*

August 19, 2002

**Two men are charged with offering illegal payments to federal
baggage screeners to speed up screening at T.F. Green**

**Air Tag, Inc. is testing a system in which check-in baggage
is screened and sealed before loading**

A federal grand jury in Providence has charged two Massachusetts men with offering illegal gratuities to federal baggage screeners at T.F. Green Airport. The defendants, at least one of whom is associated with a company called Air Tag, Inc., allegedly offered money to supervisory screeners to speed up a system being tested by the company, in which check-in baggage is screened and sealed before being loaded onto airplanes. One of the defendants allegedly gave \$1,000 to a supervisory screener.

United States Attorney Margaret E. Curran and Ned E. Schwartz, regional Special Agent in Charge, United States Department of Transportation, Office of Inspector General, jointly announced a two-count indictment, which was returned on August 14 in U.S. District Court, Providence. The defendants, **Darrall Loren Redburn**, of Weymouth, Massachusetts, and **Angelo M. Troisi**, of Peabody, Massachusetts, were arrested today by agents of the **Department of Transportation, Office of Inspector General**.

The indictment identifies Air Tag, Inc. as a corporation that provides security systems services and that agreed to test the feasibility of a bag-sealing system at T.F. Green. It identifies Redburn as being “associated” with Air Tag. It alleges that the two men conspired to offer payments to federally employed supervisory screeners to “accelerate the process whereby the (screeners) would seal check-in baggage delivered for airline flights out of T.F. Green Airport....”

The indictment alleges that Redburn approached supervisory screeners at T.F. Green Airport on at least three occasions in June and July and that Troisi gave \$1,000 to a supervisory screener on July 19. U.S. Attorney Curran said all of the supervisory screeners whom Redburn allegedly approached – many of whom are retired police officers – reported the contact to Transportation Security Administration officials, who referred the matter to the DOT Office of Inspector General.

Redburn, 38, of 23 Forest Street, Weymouth, and Troisi, 59, of 4 Market Street, Peabody, are charged with one count of each of conspiracy to offer illegal gratuities to a public official and paying an illegal gratuity to a public official. Troisi was arrested at his home in

Peabody and was to appear this afternoon before a magistrate judge in Boston. Redburn was arrested at Green Airport and will be presented before a Magistrate Judge this afternoon in U.S. District Court, Providence.

An indictment is merely an allegation and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. The statutory maximum penalties for the offenses charged are: for conspiracy, five years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine; and for paying an illegal gratuity, two years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine. Exact sentencing for any defendant who is convicted would be determined on the basis of federal sentencing guidelines, which take into account such factors as the specific nature and impact of an offense and a defendant's criminal background, if any.

The case is being investigated by the **U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of Inspector General, Office of Investigations**, with assistance from the Transportation Security Administration. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney James H. Leavey. Assistant U.S. Attorney Henry K. Kopel is representing the government at the arraignments.

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