

PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 18, 2002**

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**FEDERAL AGENCIES COOPERATE IN JOINT
INVESTIGATION TO PROMOTE AIRPORT SECURITY –
ARRESTS MADE INVOLVING SKY HARBOR
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN PHOENIX**

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced today that on April 9 and 10th, 2002, in the United States District Court in Phoenix, Arizona, Indictments were returned against 33 persons alleging numerous violations of federal laws. The investigation, known as Operation Tarmac, is part of a multi-agency effort designed to ensure the safety of the flying public and to promote heightened security at the nation's airports. The goals of the nation-wide operation are to ensure that all persons with access to security-sensitive areas of the nation's airports meet certain background security standards and verify that all airport employees are properly documented and authorized to work in the United States. Every traveler has the right to know that those individuals with access to secured areas on the airport have been properly identified and their backgrounds verified. The security of the flying public is of the utmost importance. The Sky Harbor operation is the most recent in a series of such investigations that have occurred across the country, including airports in Boston, MA, Charlotte, NC, Las Vegas, NV, San Francisco, CA, San Diego, CA, Salt Lake City, UT, and Seattle, WA.

Over the past several weeks, agents reviewed computer records of the 11,095 individuals employed at Sky Harbor Airport who had access to secured areas. Using the social security numbers provided by airport employee computer records, agents computer-searched federal social security records to determine whether each of the numbers were valid, and if so, whether each social security number provided to employers was assigned to that particular individual. The review identified approximately 200 individuals for whom additional information was needed to determine whether each was properly documented. The security files of those approximately 200 individuals were then reviewed and the field was further narrowed to identify 33 Sky Harbor employees who had access to sensitive areas of the airport and were using false identification. The names of the 33 illegally employed individuals and the charges for which they were indicted in federal court are attached as a list.

Specifically, the defendants were charged with making false statements in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001, possessing altered or counterfeited social security cards in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(C), falsely using social security numbers in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(B), and making false attestations in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1546(b)(3). All of the individuals charged in the Indictments worked at Sky Harbor International Airport in positions requiring security clearances and all had access to sensitive and secured areas of the airport, such as the ramps, runways, aircraft, and areas where aircraft are fueled and where airplane food is prepared. The defendants all resided in the Phoenix commuting area and were employees of companies that provide support services and do business at Sky Harbor Airport. The Indictments and arrest warrants were sealed until today, when the arrests took place.

If convicted, each defendant faces a maximum term of up to five years of imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine on each count charged. However, any sentence following conviction would be dictated by the United States Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of factors, and

would be imposed in the discretion of the Court. Additionally, the defendants may be ordered deported by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by the Social Security Administration, Office of the Inspector General (“SSA/OIG”), the Immigration and Nationalization Service (INS), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Department of Transportation, Office of the Inspector General (“DOT/OIG”), and the US Marshals Service (“USMS”). The U.S. Attorney’s Office and the federal agencies involved in Operation Tarmac are committed to ensuring the safety of the traveling public at our nation’s airports. It is imperative that the agencies work together to prevent acts threatening public safety and national security, and that a proactive approach be taken to prevent and disrupt such acts. That cooperative spirit and the sharing of information between agencies was demonstrated in this investigation, and was crucial in order to effect the Indictments.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The prosecutions are being handled by John K. Webb, Special Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

RELEASE NUMBER: 2002-084

DEFENDANT LIST

- X **Rafael Alonso**, age 31, charged with making a false statement on an airport security badge application, and falsely representing as his own an invalid social security number, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(B), respectively.
- X **Jorge D. Arredondo**, age 18, charged with making a false statement on an airport security badge application, falsely representing as his own a social security number belonging to another person, and possessing and using an altered or counterfeit social security card, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001, 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(B), and 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(C), respectively.

- X **Rocio Ballesteros**, age 25, charged with making a false statement on an airport security badge application, falsely representing as her own a social security number belonging to another person, and possessing and using an altered or counterfeit social security card, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001, 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(B), and 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(C), respectively.
- X **Isabel C. Carrera-Abarca**, age 31, charged with making a false statement on an airport security badge application, falsely representing as her own a social security number belonging to another person, and making a false attestation on an INS I-9 Form, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001, 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(B), and 18 U.S.C. § 1546(b)(3), respectively.
- X **Antonio Carvallo**, age 32, charged with making a false statement on an airport security badge application, falsely representing as his own a social security number belonging to another person, and making a false attestation on an INS I-9 Form, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001, 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(B), and 18 U.S.C. § 1546(b)(3), respectively.
- X **Alfonso Celis**, age 46, charged with possessing an altered or counterfeited social security card and making a false attestation on an INS I-9 Form, in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(C) and 18 U.S.C. § 1546(b)(3), respectively.
- X **Georgina Contreras**, age 31, charged with making a false statement on an airport security badge application, falsely representing as her own a social security number belonging to another person, and possessing and using an altered or counterfeit social security card, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001, 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(B), and 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(C), respectively.
- X **Adrian G. Figueroa**, age 21, charged with making a false statement on an airport security badge application, falsely representing as his own a social security number belonging to another person, and possessing and using an altered or counterfeit social security card, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001, 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(B), and 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(C), respectively.
- X **Luis M. Figueroa**, age 18, charged with possessing a false and altered or counterfeited social security card, and making a false attestation on an INS I-9 Form, in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(C) and 18 U.S.C. § 1546(b)(3), respectively.

- X **Jose J. Gonzalez**, age 22, charged with making a false statement on an airport security badge application, falsely representing as his own a social security number belonging to another person, and possessing and using an altered or counterfeit social security card, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001, 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(B), and 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(C), respectively.
- X **Jesus D. Guerrero**, age 27, charged with making a false statement on an airport security badge application, falsely representing as his own a social security number belonging to another person, and making a false attestation on an INS I-9 Form, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001, 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(B), and 18 U.S.C. § 1546(b)(3), respectively.
- X **Janeth Gutierrez**, age 24, charged with making a false statement on an airport security badge application, falsely representing as her own an invalid social security number, and making a false attestation on an INS I-9 Form, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001, 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(B), and 18 U.S.C. § 1546(b)(3), respectively.
- X **Jose R. Gutierrez**, age 23, charged with making a false statement on an airport security badge application, falsely representing as his own a social security number belonging to another person, and possessing and using an altered or counterfeit social security card, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001, 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(B), and 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(C), respectively.
- X **Mario Hernandez-Gutierrez**, age 45, charged with making a false statement on an airport security badge application, and falsely representing as his own a social security number belonging to another person, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(B), respectively.
- X **Abel Hernandez-Sanchez**, age 31, charged with making a false statement on an airport security badge application, and falsely representing as his own a social security number belonging to another person, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(B), respectively.
- X **Nickson O. Huma**, age 25, charged with possessing an altered or counterfeited social security card and making a false attestation on an INS I-9 Form, in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(C) and 18 U.S.C. § 1546(b)(3), respectively.
- X **Alejandra Jacobo**, age 44, charged with making a false statement on an airport security badge application, falsely representing as her own a social security number

belonging to another person, and making a false attestation on an INS I-9 Form, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001, 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(B), and 18 U.S.C. § 1546(b)(3), respectively.

X **Maria L. Lopez**, age 34, charged with making a false statement on an airport security badge application, falsely representing as her own an invalid social security number, and possessing and using an altered or counterfeit social security card, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001, 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(B), and 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(C), respectively.

X **Ruben Moctezuma**, age 25, charged with making a false statement on an airport security badge application, and falsely representing as his own a social security number belonging to another person, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(B), respectively.

X **Magnolia Montoya**, age 28, charged with making a false statement on an airport security badge application, falsely representing as her own a social security number belonging to another person, and possessing and using an altered or counterfeit social security card, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001, 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(B), and 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(C), respectively.

X **Felipe J. Nava**, age 38, charged with making a false statement on an airport security badge application, and falsely representing as his own an invalid social security number, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(B), respectively.

X **Guadalupe F. Olvera**, age 44, charged with making a false statement on an airport security badge application, falsely representing as her own a social security number belonging to another person, and possessing and using an altered or counterfeit social security card, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001, 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(B), and 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(C), respectively.

X **Mauricio G. Olvera**, age 32, charged with making a false statement on an airport security badge application, falsely representing as her own an invalid social security number, and possessing and using an altered or counterfeit social security card, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001, 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(B), and 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(C), respectively.

X **Julio C. Quintana**, age 29, charged with making a false statement on an airport security badge application, and falsely representing as his own a social security number

belonging to another person, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(B), respectively.

X **Leonel M. Quiroz-Martinez**, age 29, charged with making a false statement on an airport security badge application, falsely representing as his own a social security number belonging to another person, and possessing and using an altered or counterfeit social security card, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001, 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(B), and 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(C), respectively.

X **Elizabeth D. Reyna**, age 34, charged with making a false statement on an airport security badge application, and falsely representing as his own a social security number belonging to another person, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(B), respectively.

X **Nancy L. Rodriguez**, age 27, charged with making a false statement on an airport security badge application, falsely representing as her own a social security number belonging to another person, and possessing and using an altered or counterfeit social security card, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001, 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(B), and 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(C), respectively.

X **Marisol Rojas**, age 28, charged with making a false statement on an airport security badge application, falsely representing as her own a social security number belonging to another person, and possessing and using an altered or counterfeit social security card, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001, 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(B), and 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(C), respectively.

X **Moroni S. Salazar**, age 31, charged with making a false statement on an airport security badge application, falsely representing as his own a social security number belonging to another person, and possessing and using an altered or counterfeit social security card, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001, 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(B), and 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(C), respectively.

X **Cesar Trinidad**, age 25, charged with making a false statement on an airport security badge application, and falsely representing as his own a social security number belonging to another person, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(B), respectively.

X **Anastacio Vargas**, age 29, charged with making a false statement on an airport security badge application, falsely representing as his own a social security number belonging to another person, and making a false attestation on an INS I-9 Form, in violation of 18 U.S.C.

§ 1001, 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(B), and 18 U.S.C. § 1546(b)(3), respectively.

X **Maria Fuentes Vazquez**, age 35, charged with making a false statement on an airport security badge application, falsely representing as her own a social security number belonging to another person, and making a false attestation on an INS I-9 Form, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001, 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(B), and 18 U.S.C. § 1546(b)(3), respectively.

X **Maria C. Vazquez**, age 36, charged with making a false statement on an airport security badge application, and falsely representing as her own a social security number belonging to another person, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(B), respectively.