



United States Attorney's Office

Eastern District of North Carolina

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Thursday - April 7, 2005

RALEIGH - Acting United States Attorney George E. B. Holding announced that **LISA JANE PHILLIPS** was indicted by a federal grand jury in Raleigh, N. C., on Thursday, April 7, 2005, for false impersonation of an officer of the United States and related violations.

PHILLIPS, 34, of 5004 Buckingham Way, Apex, N. C., was named in a 12-count indictment. The charges included falsely impersonating an officer of the United States; falsely impersonating an officer of the United States in order to obtain a thing of value; making a false statement in a matter within the jurisdiction of the U. S. Department of Defense; six counts of wire fraud; possessing without authority insignia of the Department of Defense; wearing without authority the uniform of the armed forces of the United States; and wearing without authority decorations and medals authorized by Congress for the armed forces of the United States. (Penalty sheet attached.)

According to the indictment, since approximately March 2002, **PHILLIPS** had been wearing a United States Air Force uniform with captain insignia and representing herself to be a Captain in the United States Air Force. Based on her false impersonation, officials at Meredith College, an independent private women's college in Raleigh, N. C., waived tuition and expenses associated with **PHILLIPS'** education, which were valued at approximately \$42,178.00.

The indictment alleges that the Air Force uniform that **PHILLIPS** wore was decorated with the following military medals and ribbons:

Bronze Star (medal and ribbon)

Purple Heart (medal and ribbon)

Air Force Commendation Medal

Air Force Good Conduct Medal

Joint Service Medal

European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal

Kuwait Liberation Medal

Air Force Achievement Medal

Meritorious Service Medal

Aerial Achievement Medal

Investigation of the case was conducted jointly by the Defense Criminal Investigative Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant U. S. Attorney Kelly M. Perry is prosecuting the case for the United States.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. A trial date has not been set.

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News releases are available on the U. S. Attorney's web page at www.usdoj.gov/usao/nce within 48 hours of release.

Attachment

PENALTY SHEET - LISA JANE PHILLIPS

Counts	Offense/Statute	Penalty
ONE and TWO	Falsely assuming and pretending to be an officer and employee of the United States, Captain in the U.S. Air Force; 18 U.S.C. §912	Not more than 3 years imprisonment, and/or fine \$1,000.00, 1 year supervised release, and special assessment \$100 (Each count)
THREE	Knowingly and willfully made a false, fraudulent, and fictitious material statement and representation; 18 U.S.C. §1001	Not more than 5 years imprisonment, and/or \$250,000 fine, 1 year supervised release, and special assessment of \$100

FOUR thru NINE	Devised and intended to devise a scheme and artifice for obtaining fraudulently, by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, money and tuition waivers; 18 U.S.C. §1343	Not more than 20 years imprisonment, and/or \$250,000 fine, 3 years supervised release, special assessment \$100. (Each Count)
TEN	Possessing insignia, without authority; of the design prescribed by the head of the Department of Defense; 18 U.S.C. §701	Not more than 6 months imprisonment, and/or \$5,000 fine, Special assessment of \$50.
ELEVEN	Wearing the uniform, without authority, of the armed forces of the United States, that is the U. S. Air Force; 18 U.S.C. §702	Not more than 6 months imprisonment, and/or \$5,000 fine, Special assessment of \$50.
TWELVE	Knowingly wearing decorations and medals, without authority, authorized by Congress for the armed forces of the United States; 18 U.S.C. §704(a)	Not more than 1 year imprisonment, and/or \$100,000 fine; 1 year supervised release, and special assessment of \$25.

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