



# Department of Justice

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## **IDENTITY THIEVES WHO STOLE MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS' BANK ACCOUNT INFO SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON**

Atlanta, GA - JERMAINE ALDRED, 32, of Atlanta, Georgia, and DONTARRION BRATTON, 31, of Austell, Georgia, were sentenced to federal prison today by United States District Judge Jack T. Camp, on charges of aggravated identity theft and/or access device card fraud.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said, "The identity theft in this case is particularly egregious because these defendants fraudulently accessed bank accounts of military service members when several of them were serving overseas. Identity theft continues to be a major problem in our communities and we are working hard with our law enforcement partners to catch and punish those who commit this serious and damaging crime."

Martin D. Phanco, Postal Inspector in Charge of the Atlanta Division, said, "It is sad to see perpetrators defraud those who serve our country and fight for our freedom only to come home and find out they are victims of identity theft. U.S. Postal Inspectors will work hard and diligently with our partners to make sure we go after those criminals with everything in our power to protect the American public's good name."

Atlanta United States Secret Service Special Agent in Charge Jeffrey Gilbert said, "Identity theft is a serious problem impacting our community. Victims who have their identities stolen can spend several months, sometimes years trying to reverse the damage done to their good name and credit rating. The United States Secret Service will continue to work closely with our prosecutors and partners in law enforcement to actively pursue these crimes."

ALDRED was sentenced to 6 years, 4 months in prison to be followed by 3 years of supervised release, and ordered to pay restitution of over \$700,000, with the exact amount not yet set by the Court. On September 25, 2008, ALDRED pleaded guilty to one count of aggravated identity theft and one count of access device card fraud.

BRATTON was sentenced to 2 years, 6 months in prison to be followed by 3 years

of supervised release, and ordered to pay restitution of over \$150,000, with the exact amount not yet set by the Court. On September 25, 2008, BRATTON pleaded guilty to one count of access device card fraud.

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the information presented in court: In April 2007, law enforcement officials started investigating ALDRED's involvement in a stolen check cashing ring. Law enforcement agents discovered that between February and June 2007, ALDRED cashed over \$500,000 in stolen United States Treasury checks. ALDRED obtained fraudulent Georgia driver's licenses and cashed the checks under the guise that he was working with an income tax preparer and the stolen checks were tax refund checks. In November 2007, officials with banking and debit card processing companies notified law enforcement that bank accounts, including those of military service members, had been fraudulently accessed. During the investigation, law enforcement officials learned that ALDRED, BRATTON and other unidentified co-conspirators obtained stolen debit card numbers and purchased over \$230,000 in money orders. ALDRED and BRATTON were identified in video surveillance purchasing money orders using the stolen debit card numbers.

This case was investigated by the United States Postal Inspection Service and United States Secret Service.

Assistant United States Attorney Jeffrey Brown prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is [www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan).