



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown  
Eastern District of California

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## **PAIR CHARGED IN MULTISTATE CREDIT CARD CONSPIRACY**

### ***Volume of Credit Cards Discovered in Lost Baggage at Sacramento International Airport***

SACRAMENTO, Calif.— United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown and Sacramento County Sheriff John McGinness announced today that JOSEPH HATFIELD, 27, and JAHMEELAH SULLINS, 22, of Sacramento, were charged on Thursday with conspiracy and access device fraud. HATFIELD is also charged with possession of device-making equipment. The indictment alleges that the defendants used stolen credit card numbers to purchase gift cards and merchandise from stores in multiple states causing more than \$50,000 in fraud losses.

The case is the product of an investigation undertaken by the Sacramento Valley Hi Tech Crimes Task Force (SVHTC Task Force), the United States Secret Service, and the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Robin R. Taylor, who is prosecuting the case, as part of the conspiracy HATFIELD and SULLINS used fraudulently obtained credit card numbers to purchase gift cards and merchandise in Sacramento, Texas, Florida, and elsewhere. According to the charging document, the investigation began on February 12, 2009, after Southwest Airlines recovered an unidentified suitcase later found to belong to HATFIELD. The bag contained a volume of counterfeited credit cards and a fraudulent California driver's license in the name of Adam Constant, an alias used by HATFIELD. The bag also contained a credit card reader-encoder device used to read and manufacture counterfeited credit cards.

HATFIELD faces 15 years in prison for the possession of device-making equipment. Both defendants face up to ten years in prison for the access device fraud and five years in prison for the conspiracy charge. However, the actual sentence will be dictated by the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of factors, and will be imposed at the discretion of the court.

The charges in the indictment are only allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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