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News Release

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Reno, Nevada, man charged with assaulting woman on flight to Minnesota

MINNEAPOLIS – Earlier today in federal court, an 83-year-old man from Reno, Nevada, was charged with assaulting a paramedic/respiratory specialist while traveling to Rochester, Minnesota, via his private airplane. Robert M. Lee was charged with one count of assault in connection to the incident. He was charged in federal court because the offense occurred on board the aircraft.

Court documents filed in this case state that on September 21, 2010, Lee was traveling to a hospital in Rochester while under the care of a paramedic and a registered nurse. When the paramedic assisted Lee in returning to his seat, he allegedly grabbed and twisted her breast, causing her injury. When the woman told Lee not to touch her, he allegedly replied, "I can do whatever I want. This is my airplane."

If convicted, Lee faces a potential maximum penalty of six months in prison. All sentences will be determined by a federal judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Laura M. Provinzino and John R. Marti.

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A defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.

