



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Pennsylvania

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September 21, 2011

CHARGED WITH INTERFERING WITH AN AIRCRAFT

Brian Lawhon was charged today by indictment¹ with interfering with an aircraft, announced United States Attorney Zane David Memeger. The charge against Lawhon arises out of his involvement in an incident on July 27, 2011, during which Lawhon is alleged to have shined a laser into the cockpit of a Philadelphia Police Department helicopter during routine patrol, striking both pilots in the eyes.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE OR DATE OF BIRTH
Brian Lawhon	Philadelphia, PA	1988

Lawhon faces a maximum sentence of 20 years imprisonment, 3 years supervised release, a \$250,000 fine, and a \$100 special assessment.

This case has been investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Philadelphia Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Salvatore L. Astolfi.

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¹An indictment is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.