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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Former Boston Police Sergeant Detective Sentenced for Making False Statements and Unlawfully Entering Secure Airport Area

BOSTON – A former Boston Police Sergeant Detective was sentenced today in federal court in Boston for repeatedly making false statements so that he could fly armed on personal trips and enable a friend to fly with him without being screened by security personnel at Boston's Logan International Airport.

Bruce E. Smith, 53, of Randolph, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Leo T. Sorokin to one year of probation and ordered to pay a fine of \$7,500. In September 2017, Smith agreed to plead guilty to three counts of making false statements to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the Department of Homeland Security and one count of unlawfully entering a secure airport area with intent to evade security requirements. Smith also agreed to resign from the Boston Police Department.

Beginning in 1989, Smith was employed by the Boston Police Department and most recently served as a Sergeant Detective assigned to District E-13, Jamaica Plain, as a district detective supervisor. Between May 2011 and April 2017, Smith flew armed on approximately 28 separate trips departing from Logan Airport even though he was not on official business, which is a violation of federal law. On each of those trips, he falsely claimed that he had obtained supervisor approval for his travel. On at least two of the trips, Smith also escorted or attempted to escort a friend through Logan Airport without security screening. Smith falsely claimed that his friend was a "dignitary" under Smith's official police escort. When questioned by TSA security personnel as to what type of dignitary his friend was, Smith falsely replied, "I am not at liberty to divulge that information." In fact, Smith's friend, who has a criminal record, is not a dignitary, but a mobile clinic operator.

United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling; Boston Police Commissioner William Evans; and Mark Tasky, Special Agent in Charge of the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General, Washington Field Office, made the announcement today. The investigation was conducted jointly by BPD's Anti-Corruption Division and DHS-OIG. Assistant U.S. Attorney Zachary R. Hafer of Lelling's Public Corruption and Special Prosecutions Unit prosecuted the case.

Topic(s):

Public Corruption

Component(s):

USAO - Massachusetts

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