

# **Airport police arrest one of "America's Most Wanted"**

## **For immediate release**

**Tampa, Fla. (September 16, 1999)** - - The Airport Police initiated a fugitive arrest of 55-year-old Richard A. Minsky on September 15, 1999, at 9:50 p.m. at Tampa International Airport (TPA).

The previous day, a female resident of the Tampa Bay area contacted the Tampa International Airport Police to report a suspicious phone call she had received. An unknown male telephoned her residence and stated that her friend was at fault in an automobile accident, but the matter could be cleared up if she could come up with some money to pay off the other driver. She was then instructed to bring \$5,000 to a "middle man" at TPA. The woman then contacted her friend and realized this incident was some type of fraud.

Teams of detectives were set up to catch the suspect, but he failed to appear for the money transaction. The case detective received a wanted poster from the Airport Law Enforcement Agencies Network (ALEAN) which identified a suspect who uses the same method of operation to extort money or sexually assault victims. Another detective also recalled that this suspect had been featured on the television show "America's Most Wanted." The suspect was then identified as Richard A. Minsky.

On September 15, 1999, a resident from Plant City reported another suspicious call to the Airport Police. The complainant also advised that the number had been traced to a telephone at TPA. Airport police officers responded to the location and identified the alleged perpetrator. The suspect provided fraudulent identification, but eventually admitted he was Richard A. Minsky. He had physically changed his appearance after viewing himself on "America's Most Wanted".

Minsky was booked into the Hillsborough County Jail on numerous warrants, including sexual assault, from various jurisdictions throughout the United States. Additional charges are pending and detectives continue to investigate.

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