



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: SDUSM Frank Conroy
Northern District of California, 415-748-2792
Frank.Conroy@usdoj.gov
USMS Office of Public Affairs, 703-740-1699

U.S. Marshals capture fugitive after almost 30 years on the run

San Francisco, California – Peyton Eidson, 72, was taken into custody today at the San Francisco International Airport, after being escorted by Australian Immigration officials from Queensland, Australia. Eidson was charged in 1988 with Conspiracy to Import Marijuana and Fraud.

In 1988, Eidson was indicted as part of a conspiracy that imported several tons of high grade marijuana into California throughout the 1980's. Eidson had obtained a false passport, and lived abroad for nearly 30 years, while all other members of the conspiracy had been arrested and sentenced to prison. Two of those co-conspirators were Mark Gayer and Steven Wolosky, who were previously on the U.S. Marshals Top 15 Most Wanted list. Gayer and Wolosky made an attempt to fake their own deaths by trying to sink a fishing boat off the coast of California in the 1990's, but were apprehended by the U.S. Marshals in 2000 and sentenced to 11 years in prison.

In 2011, the U.S. State Department's Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) determined that Eidson and his wife had obtained fraudulent passports by assuming the identity of deceased persons and relocated to Australia under those assumed names. In fact, both Eidson and his wife were operating a health spa retreat in Queensland for decades. DSS identified that they were wanted U.S. fugitives and provided this information along with their location in Australia to the U.S. Marshals. In June of 2011, Australian authorities arrested Eidson, but he has been fighting deportation ever since. His arrest signals the end of that fight, and will begin his process through the federal criminal justice system.

Don O'Keefe, the U.S. Marshal for the Northern District of California said, "The U.S. Marshals never stop looking for a fugitive until he or she is captured. We are dedicated and diligent in finding people and bringing them to justice. We couldn't be as successful as we are without our partnerships at all levels of government both here and abroad, and we are grateful for their help. Not only was the Department of State instrumental in this capture, but also were the authorities in Australia, and we thank them both for their steadfast approach to tracking down wanted fugitives, no matter where they hide."

To find information on fugitive's currently being sought by the U.S. Marshals in Northern California, or to submit a tip on the whereabouts of a fugitive, please visit: <http://northerncaliforniamostwanted.org>

The U.S. Marshals Service is the primary federal agency charged with conducting fugitive investigations throughout the country. The U.S. Marshals regularly works in concert with other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to seek out and arrest violent fugitives and sex offenders, and has established task forces throughout the nation to facilitate the apprehension of fugitives.

America's Oldest Federal Law Enforcement Agency

For more information about the U.S. Marshals Service, visit: <http://www.usmarshals.gov>

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