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## Former Delta pilot admits to fraud

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A former Delta Air Lines Inc. pilot from Suwanee, Ga., pleaded guilty late Tuesday in federal district court to charges of mail fraud and bank fraud.

Former Delta Capt. Robert W. Hughes, 61, was involved in a scheme to defraud a private real estate limited liability company of more than \$140,000 and to defraud a federally-insured bank by creating a fictitious bank account, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Hughes was convicted of wire and bankruptcy fraud in 1999 and sentenced to 17 months in federal prison. After his release, between November 2002 and August 2004, Hughes got involved in another scheme to defraud a real estate development company and a bank, related to a golf community land deal on the Dawson-Cherokee County, Ga., line.

Acting as a consultant to the owners of the property interested in developing it as a golf course community, Hughes began to divert checks intended for the real estate company, and deposited funds into a separate account that he controlled. Hughes would then send the real estate company only some of the checks that were intended for the company. Hughes intended to lull the partnership into believing they were receiving each and every check in its full amount. According to the evidence, the scheme resulted in losses to the real estate company of more than \$80,000 and losses to the bank of more than \$60,000.

Sentencing is set for July 2, before U.S. District Judge Richard W. Story.

"The defendant in this case is like many others who believe they can commit fraud over and over again," said U.S. Attorney David E. Nahmias. "Often such fraud schemes take place in different communities as the fraudster moves on to the next deal. The FBI and other investigative agencies have been invaluable to our office in locating and helping us prosecute these repeat offenders."

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