

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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## ***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
Karen P. Hewitt***

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***For Further Information, Contact: Assistant U.S. Attorney Melanie K. Pierson (619) 557-5685***

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***For Immediate Release***

### **NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY** - January 24, 2008

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Dennis Stathoulis and Vasilios Tsiamis were sentenced today in federal court in San Diego by Magistrate Judge Nita L. Stormes to pay restitution to the U.S. Department of Defense in the amount of \$9,000 and a \$1,000 fine and to serve one year of probation based upon their guilty pleas to witness tampering, a misdemeanor. The defendants pled guilty on November 15, 2007.

In connection with their guilty pleas, Stathoulis and Tsiamis admitted that they were partners in a business known as "Kim's Construction," which performs lead abatement work on Department of Defense contracts for the U.S. Navy at facilities throughout the San Diego area. In 2004, Kim's Construction was subcontracted to perform the lead paint abatement at Spawar, Point Loma. The delivery order for lead abatement specifically required that an Industrial Hygienist be present to monitor the project. Among other things, the Hygienist was responsible for conducting air monitoring to detect the presence of any airborne lead released by the lead abatement procedures, and determining whether the level was safe to allow the public to re-enter the space after the abatement was complete. Kim's Construction performed the lead abatement

work on that delivery order for seven days in June and July 2004. Both defendants were aware that no industrial hygienist was employed on the project.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Melanie K. Pierson, who prosecuted the case, the defendants admitted that between March 30, 2005 and April 20, 2005, they intentionally harassed an industrial hygienist by repeatedly telephoning and visiting his office, requesting that he create false documents indicating that air monitoring had been performed on SPAWAR building contracts. The defendants acknowledged that they intended by their conduct to dissuade the hygienist from assisting the government in its investigation of the submission of false claims for payment to the government for the services of an industrial hygienist. The amount of loss caused by the defendants to the Department of Defense under the contract was \$9,000.

**DEFENDANTS**

**Case No. 07cr2850JLS**

Dennis Stathoulis

Vasilios Tsiamis

**SUMMARY OF CHARGE**

Witness Tampering, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1512(d)(4)

**AGENCY**

Defense Criminal Investigative Service