



PRESS RELEASE
*Office of the United States Attorney
Middle District of Florida*

PAUL I. PEREZ
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

400 North Tampa Street
Suite 3200
Tampa, Florida 33602
813/274-6000
813/274-6300 (Fax)

300 North Hogan Street
Suite 700
Jacksonville, Florida 32201
904/301-6300
904/301-6310 (Fax)

501 West Church Street
Suite 300
Orlando, Florida 32805
407/648-7500
407/648-7643 (Fax)

2110 First Street
Suite 3-137
Fort Myers, Florida 33901
239/461-2200
239/461-2219 (fax)

Contact: Steve Cole ♦ Public Affairs Specialist ♦ 813/274-6352

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FORMER SOCOM EMPLOYEE IS INDICTED A SECOND TIME

Tampa, Florida - United States Attorney Paul I. Perez announced today the return of an indictment charging William E. Burke, a 50 year old resident of Odessa, Florida, with making a false declaration before a Court. The maximum penalties Burke faces if convicted is five years' imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000.

William E. Burke was found guilty on October 14, 2005, having pleaded guilty to bribery. On January 25, 2006 U..S. District Judge Susan C. Bucklew, sentenced Burke to a term of three years' probation, with a special condition of six months' home detention; a fine of \$4,500, and a special assessment of \$100.

According to court documents, Mr. Burke had been employed by the Sentel Corporation. As such, he had been assigned to the United States Special Operations Command (SOCOM) which is located at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida. Burke had been assigned to SOCOM since 1999.

Among other matters, Mr. Burke was hired to provide analysis, acquisition and

sustainment of special operations forces unique equipment and material. Mr. Burke was assigned to the Special Operations Acquisitions and Logistics Center Organization. Specifically, he was assigned to the International and Industry Division of the Special Operations Acquisitions and Logistics Center.

At the time Mr. Burke entered his guilty plea on October 14, 2005, he admitted that he and Thomas F. Spellissy entered into an agreement whereby Mr. Burke would give preferential treatment in the contracting process to contractors who were represented by Mr. Spellissy. As a result, Mr. Spellissy paid Mr. Burke, through their respective companies, \$4,500 in two, separate payments for Mr. Burke's assistance.

This instant indictment is the result of Mr. Burke's testimony at the trial of his co-defendant Thomas F. Spellissy. At Mr. Spellissy's trial, Mr. Burke testified that he had not bribed Mr. Spellissy, although he had testified at his guilty plea hearing that he did in fact bribe Mr. Spellissy.

The case is being investigated by the Department of Defense, Defense Criminal Investigative Service, Office of the Inspector General; Federal Bureau of Investigation; and U.S. Special Operations Command, Inspector General's Office. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent unless, and until, proven guilty.