



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

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Sentencing in U.S. Navy Procurement Bribery Scheme

(Alexandria, VA) - John A. Hancock, age 55, formerly of Charles County, Maryland, and currently living in Clarksville, Tennessee, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Leonie M. Brinkema to 30 months in prison in connection with a bribery scheme at the Naval Research Lab in Washington, D.C. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, also announced that Hancock was also ordered to pay \$215, 000 in restitution.

From approximately 1992 through early 2006, Hancock worked as the material controller for the Supply Department of the Naval Research Lab ("Research Lab"). In this role, Hancock had authority to make purchases of miscellaneous items on behalf of the Research Lab when those purchases were less than \$2,500 per purchase. In the case of more expensive procurements, Hancock had the ability to influence the choice of competing vendors and the amount of their bids.

According to court documents, from the mid 1990's through 2005, Hancock corruptly demanded and received things of value from Shannon Edgell and Michael Harrington, both of Fairfax County, in return for Hancock's agreement to direct the Research Lab's procurements to companies either owned or controlled by them. In particular, Harrington and Edgell together paid Hancock approximately \$107,000 in bribes. In order to fund the bribery and to provide additional incentive to Edgell and Harrington to participate in the scheme, Hancock permitted Edgell and Harrington to either inflate the prices they had planned to charge for the items at issue or, in some cases, to charge the Research Lab for items that were never delivered. Edgell and Harrington then split these inflated or unearned proceeds with Hancock roughly fifty-fifty. The scheme resulted in an overall loss to the Research Lab of approximately \$215,000.

Last November Shannon Edgell pled guilty to a charge of conspiracy and will be sentenced before United States District Judge Gerald Bruce Lee on April 27, 2007. Michael Harrington is deceased.

In October 2006, Deputy Attorney General Paul J. McNulty announced the formation of a National Procurement Fraud Task Force designed to promote the early detection, identification, prevention and prosecution of procurement fraud associated with the increase in contracting activity for national security and other government programs. The Procurement Fraud Task Force chaired by Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the Criminal Division includes the FBI, the U.S. Inspectors General community, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia, and others.

The Hancock investigation was conducted by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service and the FBI. The prosecution of the case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Stephen Learned.

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