



Department of Defense  
Office of the Inspector General

# Information Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Contractor and National Guard Official Indicted

The Department of Defense (DoD) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) announced today that Steven M. Wickenheiser and John Darden were indicted by a Grand Jury in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, on charges of conspiracy to commit bribery, paying and receiving illegal gratuities, and accepting kickbacks.

According to the indictment, Steven Wickenheiser was a lieutenant colonel in the Army National Guard. In that capacity, he was the Chief of the Automation Branch within Automated Information Systems (AIS) at the Army National Guard Readiness Center. According to the indictment, Wickenheiser conspired with John Darden, a sales representative from Oki Data, a company that manufactures computer printers. The men conspired concerning the sale of Oki Data printers to the National Guard.

Another company called Netfusion served as the reseller of the printers to the National Guard. According to the indictment, the Netfusion president agreed to make payments of approximately \$12,000 each to Wickenheiser and Darden in order to secure the sale of the printers. Wickenheiser signed a Purchase Request and Commitment in the amount of \$261,414 on behalf of the National Guard to purchase 108 printers. The printers were distributed throughout the country.

Wickenheiser and Darden were each charged with one count of Conspiracy to commit bribery in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 201(b)(2)(A); paying and receiving gratuities in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 201(c)(1)(B); and acceptance of kickbacks in violation of Title 41, United States Code, Sections 53(2) and 54.

Additionally, Wickenheiser was charged with one count of making a false statement in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001; the indictment charges that Wickenheiser falsely told a special agent of the Defense Criminal Investigative Service that he did not solicit money from a representative of another computer company when, in fact, he had solicited a \$120,000 payment in connection with an Army National Guard procurement.

This case is being investigated by the Defense Criminal Investigative Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Office of Inspector General for the General Services Administration. It is being prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Any questions regarding this matter can be directed to Special Agent in Charge Geoffrey Cherrington of the DCIS Mid-Atlantic Field Office at 703-604-8439.

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