



Department of Justice

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias
Northern District of Georgia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2/12/08

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan/>

CONTACT: Patrick Crosby

(404)581-6016

FAX (404)581-6160

FORMER ARMY OFFICIAL, HIS WIFE, AND A BUSINESSMAN INDICTED ON BRIBERY CHARGES

Couple Allegedly Took Half-Million Dollars In Payoffs On Contracts To Provide Water To U.S. Troops Overseas

Atlanta, GA - RICHARD E. LONG, 63, and DEBRA L. LONG, 44, both of St. Augustine, Florida, and MACK S. SMITH, 56, of Bladenboro, North Carolina, have been indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of conspiracy, bribery of a public official, wire fraud, and money laundering.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said, "We are committed to supporting the brave men and women of our Armed Forces, who volunteer to go into harm's way to protect our freedom. The defendants' alleged scheme betrayed those service members and the public by guaranteeing that the water supply for Army personnel risking their lives in hot and dry lands overseas came not from the most capable supplier, but from the one willing to bribe the key decision maker."

"It is disturbing to think that anyone would possibly compromise the most basic of human needs for our men in women in uniform who are fighting for this country in an incredibly harsh and dangerous environment," said Brigadier General Rodney Johnson, commanding general of the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command. "I can guarantee that we are aggressively investigating allegations of this nature and will do everything in our power to bring justice to those who attempt to defraud the government."

"The Defense Criminal Investigative Service remains committed to protecting the interests of the brave men and women serving their country at home and abroad through aggressively investigating criminal activity which impacts their welfare," said Sharon Woods, Acting Director. "Public corruption which threatens the interests of members of the military also causes Americans to lose faith in public officials, and leads to distrust in government. Especially alarming is the fact that this investigation involved contracts calling for production of safe drinking water for U.S. troops in geographical areas where water is scarce."

According to the indictment, RICHARD E. LONG worked as a civilian employee of the United States Department of the Army Forces Command in the position of Water and Petroleum Program Manager, from approximately November 1996 through approximately December 2004. While in that position, LONG was based at Fort McPherson, in the Atlanta area, in the Northern District of Georgia. LONG's duties included reviewing bids submitted by private contractors for water-related military contracts. MACK S. SMITH was the owner of WATEC, Inc., a Tennessee company that provided water-purification equipment and servicing. Starting in approximately October 1998, RICHARD E. LONG and his wife, DEBRA L. LONG, entered into an agreement by which SMITH would make secret payments to RICHARD E. LONG, usually through mailed checks or wire transfers to DEBRA L. LONG, in exchange for LONG's recommendation that every water-purification contract be awarded to WATEC. During LONG's tenure as Water and Petroleum Manager, WATEC was continually awarded, either as the primary contractor or as a subcontractor, contracts on which it bid. At least one contract was valued at over \$32,000,000. These awards were based on RICHARD E. LONG's recommendations. From 2001 to 2007, SMITH made payments to the LONGs totalling approximately \$553,700, including down payments for a home the LONGs purchased and a home purchased by DEBRA L. LONG's sister, both homes located in St. Augustine, Florida.

The 105-count indictment charges RICHARD E. LONG, DEBRA L. LONG, and MACK SMITH each with one count of conspiracy, 39 counts of bribery, 25 counts of wire fraud, and one count of money laundering. The conspiracy charge carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. Each wire fraud charge carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. Each bribery count carries a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000 or three times the value of whatever was received for the bribe -- in this case, the value of the contract -- whichever is greater. The money laundering charge carries a maximum sentence of ten years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.

This case is being investigated by special agents of the Department of the Army, Criminal Investigation Command, and the Department of Defense Criminal Investigative Service.

Assistant United States Attorneys Glenn D. Baker and Jon-Peter F. Kelly are prosecuting the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan