



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

ALEXANDRIA NEWPORT NEWS NORFOLK RICHMOND

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 11, 2007

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Sentencing in Government Contract Bribery Scheme

(Alexandria, VA) – Nadine B. Lucas, age 59, of King George County, Virginia, was sentenced today to four months in prison and an additional four months of home detention following her conviction in February of conspiring to pay illegal gratuities to fellow King George County resident, Michael A. Causer. Causer was a government official working at the Department of Public Works, Naval Facilities and Engineering Command, at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Dahlgren, Virginia. The Judge also ordered her to pay \$20,000 in restitution. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, made the announcement after sentencing by United States District Judge James C. Cacheris.

From the mid 1990s through 2004, Causer was the Utilities Supervisor for the Department of Public Works at the Navy's Dahlgren facility. Lucas owned and operated Management Control Systems ("MCS"), a government contractor providing technical and related services in the field of information technology. According to court documents, in September 2003, with assistance provided by Causer, MCS was awarded a General Services Administration (GSA) approved contract to provide a broad range of information technology services to the Dahlgren facility. The GSA contract authorized up to \$2 million in business per year. Court documents state that, after the GSA contract was awarded, Lucas gave Causer gratuities for and because of his past and anticipated future assistance to her company. These gratuities included a new \$22,000 Kioti tractor, furniture valued at \$7,900, and \$5,000 in postal money orders payable to the Internal Revenue Service to satisfy Causer's 2003 tax obligation. Court documents also state that for the months of October and November 2003, Lucas fraudulently double billed to Dahlgren's Department of Public Works the labor hours associated with an MCS employee, resulting in an overcharge to the government of approximately \$20,000.

In November 2006, Michael A. Causer pled guilty to conspiracy and was sentenced to 15 months in prison and was ordered to pay \$252,000 in restitution.

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. Attorneys office for the Eastern District of Virginia, and others.

The Causer/Lucas 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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