



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Michael J. Sullivan  
District of Massachusetts

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## TWO CHARGED IN MILITARY CONTRACTOR CORRUPTION PROBE

Boston.... A Department of Defense civilian employee at Fort Benning Georgia, and his sister in Massachusetts, have been indicted in U.S. District Court for a wire fraud scheme involving \$4.1 million in contracts with the Army.

United States Attorney Michael J. Sullivan, Keith Johnston, Resident Agent in Charge of the Defense Criminal Investigative Service, Peter Seguin, Resident Agent in Charge of the Boston Fraud Resident Agency - U.S. Army Criminal Investigative Division and Tyrone G. Barney, Special Agent in Charge of the Internal Revenue Service - Boston Field Office, announced today that **ALLEN THROWER**, 56, of Fortson, GA and **MARIE CIMINO**, 54, of Groveland, MA have been indicted by a federal grand jury on nine counts of honest services wire fraud during the period August, 2004 through February, 2008. **MARIE CIMINO** is also charged with one count of making false statements to a government agency.

According to the indictment, **THROWER** was employed by the U.S. Army at Fort Benning as Chief of Quality Support Division in the Human Resources Directorate. **CIMINO**, **THROWER'S** sister, was President and Chief Executive Officer of Military Service Support, LLC ("MSS"), a company formed in 2004 and located at her single family residence in Groveland, MA. The indictment alleges that **THROWER**, who had responsibility for preparing purchase requests and sole source justifications for the services of a commercial contractors, used his official position to arrange for and influence the awarding of both sole source and competitive contracts at Fort Benning, to MSS for personnel-related services in order to obtain financial benefits for his sister and himself. In so doing, **THROWER** and **CIMINO** concealed their familial relationship from U.S. Army contracting officials and from MSS employees in Georgia.

The indictment alleges that **THROWER** had a duty under law and federal ethics regulations to refrain from participating in the awarding and administration of contracts where he had a personal relationship with the contractor and to refrain from directly or indirectly soliciting or accepting benefits or money from a party doing business with the U.S. Army. However, it is alleged that during the time in which **THROWER** was involved in steering the eight contracts to MSS and supervising them, **THROWER** received at least \$30,000 from MSS, in the form of checks, airline tickets and lodging at Foxwoods Resort and Casino in Connecticut.

In one instance, it is alleged that MSS provided **THROWER** round-trip airline tickets between Atlanta and Boston, where he traveled to the residence of **CIMINO**, posed as the operations manager of MSS, and conducted a telephonic interview with an applicant in Georgia to be hired as the on-site supervisor for MSS. In another instance, it is alleged that **THROWER**, sat on a source selection committee to evaluate the bids from six responsive companies, including MSS. **THROWER** denied to contracting officials that he had any ties or relationship with the companies who submitted bids. **THROWER** then recommended the selection of MSS to the contracting official, citing its past performance, even though its bid was substantially higher than the other bids. MSS was awarded the contract, which had a base period of \$683,990 and with options reached \$2,234,806.

In a separate charge, **CIMINO** is alleged to have submitted a Certificate of Liability Insurance in order to be awarded a contract worth more than \$3 million, which falsely showed that MSS had \$1,000,000 in commercial general liability insurance from the Hartford Insurance Group.

If convicted, each of the wire fraud counts carries a maximum sentence of 20 years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine and five years supervised release. The false statement charge against **CIMINO** carries a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine and three years supervised release.

The case was investigated by special agents of the Defense Criminal Investigative Service, the Army Criminal Investigative Division and the Internal Revenue Service. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney S. Theodore Merritt of the Public Corruption and Special Prosecutions Unit.

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