



PRESS RELEASE
*Office of the United States Attorney
Middle District of Florida*

PAUL I. PEREZ
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

400 North Tampa Street
Suite 3200
Tampa, Florida 33602
813/274-6000
813/274-6300 (Fax)

300 North Hogan Street
Suite 700
Jacksonville, Florida 32201
904/301-6300
904/301-6310 (Fax)

501 West Church Street
Suite 300
Orlando, Florida 32805
407/648-7500
407/648-7643 (Fax)

2110 First Street
Suite 3-137
Fort Myers, Florida 33901
239/461-2200
239/461-2219 (fax)

Contact: Steve Cole ♦ Public Affairs Specialist ♦ 813/274-6352

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FORMER SOCOM EMPLOYEE IS FOUND GUILTY A SECOND TIME

Tampa, Florida - A federal jury today found William E. Burke, a 51 year old resident of Odessa, Florida, guilty of making a false declaration before a Court. The maximum penalties Burke faces if convicted is five years' imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000. A sentencing date has not yet been set.

Mr. Burke was indicted on October 10, 2006 as a result of Mr. Burke's testimony at the trial of his co-defendant Thomas F. Spellissy. At Mr. Spellissy's trial, Mr. Burke testified that he had not received a bribe from Mr. Spellissy, although he had testified at his guilty plea hearing that he did in fact receive a bribe from Mr. Spellissy.

In a separate proceeding, William E. Burke pled guilty to bribery on October 14, 2005,. On January 25, 2006 U..S. District Judge Susan C. Bucklew, sentenced Burke to a term of three years' probation, with a special condition of six months' home detention; a fine of \$4,500, and a special assessment of \$100.

According to court documents, Mr. Burke had been employed by the Sentel Corporation. As such, he had been assigned to the United States Special Operations Command (SOCOM) which is located at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida. Burke had been assigned to SOCOM since 1999.

Among other matters, Mr. Burke was hired to provide analysis, acquisition and sustainment of special operations forces unique equipment and material. Mr. Burke was assigned to the Special Operations Acquisitions and Logistics Center Organization. Specifically, he was assigned to the International and Industry Division of the Special Operations Acquisitions and Logistics Center.

At the time Mr. Burke entered his guilty plea on October 14, 2005, he admitted that he and Thomas F. Spellissy entered into an agreement whereby Mr. Burke would give preferential treatment in the contracting process to contractors who were represented by Mr. Spellissy. As a result, Mr. Spellissy paid Mr. Burke, through their respective companies, \$4,500 in two, separate payments for Mr. Burke's assistance.

The case was being investigated by the Department of Defense, Defense Criminal Investigative Service, Office of the Inspector General; Federal Bureau of Investigation; and U.S. Special Operations Command, Inspector General's Office. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill.