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PRESS RELEASE

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Virginia man pleads guilty to illegally accessing his supervisor's E-mail account

Washington, D.C. - United States Attorney Kenneth L. Wainstein, Michael A. Mason, Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI's Washington Field Office, and Special Agent In Charge Joseph McMillan, Mid-Atlantic Field Office Defense Criminal Investigative Service, Office of the Inspector General, Department of Defense, announced that Bruce Graham, 55, of Woodbridge, Virginia, pleaded guilty today before the Honorable John M. Facciola, United States Magistrate Judge, to one count of Fraud and Related Activity in Connection with Computers, in violation of Title 18, U.S.C. § 1030. The plea is in connection with Graham exceeding the authorized access granted to him for the computer network of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board (DNFSB) and thereby reading e-mail messages of his supervisor. Graham faces a statutory penalty of up to one year of imprisonment, a \$100,000.00 fine, an order of restitution, and one year of supervised release. Pursuant to the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, Graham faces a likely period of incarceration of 6 to 12 months of incarceration. Sentencing is scheduled for June 15, 2005.

According to information presented to the Court by Assistant U.S. Attorney Sherri L. Schornstein, Graham was employed as a Mission Support Specialist (technician) and had been employed with DNFSB since 1994. In this position, Graham was responsible for providing computer and graphics support services to the technical staff and for managing and improving document information systems related to the strategic initiatives of the Board.

All computer users at DNFSB see a computer banner when they access their computer which indicates that the system is a government computer system for authorized use only, that all data contained on the system are the property of the Federal government, and that the system is monitored to prevent and detect unauthorized access. In order to continue computer usage, the user must click the "O.K." button. By clicking the button, the user consents to the usage policy. In addition to the banner, DNFSB has an administrative policy and ethics training which clearly delineates rules concerning the e-mail and Internet Access Acceptable Use Policies.

Due to excessive Internet usage between August 25 through September 1, 2004, Graham's Internet and PC activity was monitored, recorded, and archived. The Systems Analyst monitored Graham's activity in real time and observed Graham accessing the groupwise e-mail account of his supervisor, the Deputy Director and Acting Director for Human Resources. On her e-mail account, the supervisor had employee personal information, information concerning personnel actions for DFSND employees, and her own personal e-mail messages. Graham was not authorized to access these e-mails.

In announcing the guilty plea, U.S. Attorney Wainstein, Assistant Director Mason, and Special Agent in Charge McMillan commended the work of FBI Special Agent Ronald Clark and the staff of the U.S. Attorney's Office, including Legal Assistant Lisa Robinson and Assistant U.S. Attorney Sherri L. Schornstein, who is prosecuting the case.