



Department of Defense  
Office of the Inspector General

# Information Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Former Operations Manager Sentenced in Fraudulent Asbestos Certificate Scheme**

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG), Department of Defense (DoD), announced today that Bobby Newsome, former Operations Manager, ACS Environmental, Incorporated, Norfolk, VA, was sentenced in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Norfolk, VA, to three months incarceration followed by three months home confinement, two years supervised probation, a \$10,000 fine, and a special assessment of \$300. Newsome previously pled guilty on March 15, 2005, to a single count of making false statements and two counts of aiding and abetting violations of the Clean Air Act.

Newsome, formerly the Operations Manager of ACS Environmental, Incorporated (ACS), was responsible for ensuring employees were properly trained and certified in accordance with Federal, state and local law. An investigation found that F & M Environmental Technologies, Incorporated, a Virginia Beach, VA, company that previously pled guilty to selling fraudulent environmental training certificates, provided Newsome with 51 certificates, which falsely indicated ACS workers had completed the required training to obtain jobs involving hazardous material removal, including asbestos and lead abatement. The certificates were submitted by ACS to work at Federal, state or public facilities such as schools and military bases. Newsome used untrained employees on the demolition of the former Buckroe Junior High School, Hampton, VA, knowing the building contained regulated asbestos material. Further, untrained employees were used in the removal of petroleum-contaminated soil from a U.S. Coast Guard facility in Elizabeth City, NC. Newsome also directed the demolition of 786 homes in the former Fairwood Homes residential development located in Portsmouth, VA, knowing the buildings contained regulated asbestos material.

This investigation was conducted by a task force consisting of the Defense Criminal Investigative Service (the criminal investigative arm of the OIG, DoD), the Army Criminal Investigation Division Command, the Environmental Protection Agency's Criminal Investigative Division, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's OIG Office of Criminal Investigations, with audit assistance provided by the Defense Contract Audit Agency. Noreen McCarthy, Trial Attorney, Environmental Crimes Section, U. S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, handled the prosecution.

For further information, contact Joseph A. McMillan, Special Agent in Charge, Mid-Atlantic Field Office at (703) 604-8411.

To report suspected fraud, waste, and abuse within DoD programs, contact the Defense Hotline toll-free at (800) 424-9098, e-mail: [hotline@dodig.mil/](mailto:hotline@dodig.mil/), or visit them on the World Wide Web at <http://www.dodig.mil/hotline/>.