



Department of Defense
Office of the Inspector General

Information Release

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Man Pleads Guilty to Wire Fraud in Scheme to Defraud the U.S. Air Force Pentagon Communications Agency

The Inspector General, Department of Defense, announced that on May 24, 2005, Jeremy J. Purcell pled guilty to Wire Fraud (Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343) before the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. The guilty plea was the result of a joint investigation conducted by the Defense Criminal Investigative Service (DCIS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). DCIS is the criminal investigative arm of the Office of Inspector General, Department of Defense.

The investigation revealed that from approximately April 2003 until approximately August 2003, Purcell engaged in a scheme to defraud the United States Air Force Pentagon Communications Agency (AFPCA). At the time, Purcell was employed as a salesperson for AAA Networks (AAA), Falls Church, VA. AAA is a firm that sells telecommunications equipment and services.

In order to win telecommunications contracts Purcell submitted fraudulent bids from two of AAA's competitors to AFPCA. AFPCA required that three competitive bids be obtained to award contracts. The fraudulent bids were priced higher than AAA's, thus allowing AAA to successfully receive each contract award. Purcell's scheme allowed him to successfully win four awards. AAA was awarded at total of \$76,889 in contract work. A fifth attempt by Purcell to utilize this scheme was unsuccessful, but would have resulted in an additional \$77,444 contract award. Sentencing of Purcell is scheduled for August 19, 2005.

Purcell was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Stephen Learned. Any questions regarding this investigation may be directed to Special Agent in Charge Joseph McMillan, Mid-Atlantic Field Office, DCIS, at 703-604-8439.

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