



Department of Defense
Office of the Inspector General

Information Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 29, 2005

Former Grafton, Virginia, Businessman Sentenced to Five Years Probation for Conspiracy to Commit Bank Fraud and Ordered to Pay Restitution

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG), Department of Defense (DoD), announced today that on March 29, 2005, Donald H. Sumner, a former resident of Hampton, VA, and a former employee of a used car business called "Victory Motors", operating in two locations, one located in the Grafton, VA, and the other operated in Carrollton, VA, was sentenced today in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Norfolk (Newport News Division), VA. Sumner received five years probation, ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$79,959 and special assessment fee of \$100. Sumner previously pled guilty on October 6, 2004, to one count of Conspiracy to Commit Bank Fraud (18 U.S.C. 371).

Between October 1997 and February 1998, in the Eastern District of Virginia and elsewhere, Sumner, did unlawfully and knowingly combine, conspire, and agree with other persons (namely, William David Harrell, a retired military officer and former owner of Victory Motors) to defraud a financial institution and to obtain money from a financial institution by means of materially false and fraudulent pretenses, representations, or promises. It was a further part of the conspiracy that Sumner and Harrell did fraudulently obtain money from financial institutions by kiting or passing bad checks between their accounts at two banks and by withdrawing money from those accounts before the checks were discovered to be insufficient. The proceeds of the deposited checks were disbursed at a loss of \$79,959.

Harrell previously pled guilty on July 21, 2004, to one count of Conspiracy to Commit Bank Fraud (18 U.S.C. 371) and one count of Concealment in Bankruptcy (18 U.S.C. 152(7)). On February 18, 2005, Harrell was sentenced to five years probation and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$116,624.

The Defense Criminal Investigative Service (the criminal investigative arm of the OIG, DoD) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) conducted this investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Bradenham, U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Virginia, Norfolk (Newport News Division), VA, handled the prosecution of this case.

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

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