



United States Attorney's Office Western District of Pennsylvania

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MARYLAND MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CONSPIRACY IN PENTAGON FRAUD SCHEME

United States Attorney Mary Beth Buchanan announced today, October 30, 2006, that Joseph Arena, Jr., a resident of Gaithersburg, Maryland, pleaded guilty on October 27, 2006, in federal court in Pittsburgh, to a charge of Conspiracy.

Arena, age 56, of Gaithersburg, Maryland, pleaded guilty to one count before Gary L. Lancaster United States District Judge.

In connection with the guilty plea, Assistant United States Attorney Carolyn J. Bloch advised the court that Arena was a senior-level employee of AMEC Construction Management, Inc., and was assigned to work at the Pentagon reconstruction project that followed the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001. As AMEC's project supervisor, Arena was responsible for reviewing invoices submitted by Capco Contracting Company, Inc., its sub-contractor, for reimbursement, as well as reviewing the numerous contract change orders that involved Capco. Contrary to United States Government and AMEC policy, Arena allowed Capco to pay for

remodeling and repair work on his personal residence in the sum of approximately \$30,000. Arena concealed from AMEC his personal relationship with Cousar, as well as the payments made by Cousar on his behalf. In an effort to prevent the Inspector General, Department of Defense, from learning of their conduct, from July 17, 2002, through June 30, 2004, Arena conspired with defendants Thomas Cousar, Catherine Bradica, and other persons to create and present a false invoice and personal check to make it appear as if an unrelated construction company had performed the work at Arena's home, and that Arena had personally paid for such work.

Judge Lancaster scheduled sentencing for March 2, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. The law provides for a total sentence of 5 years in prison, a fine of \$250,000, or both. Under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, the actual sentence imposed is based upon the seriousness of the offense and the criminal history, if any, of the defendant.

Special agents from the United States Postal Inspection Service, the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation, Defense Criminal Investigation Service, Defense Contract Audit Agency, Department of Labor - Office of the Inspector General, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation conducted the investigation that led to the prosecution of Joseph Arena, Jr.

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