



Department of Defense
Office of the Inspector General

Information Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 26, 2006

Former Defense Commissary Agency Attorney Sentenced

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG), Department of Defense (DoD), announced that on May 25, 2006, Cherlyn J. Mitchell, a former attorney with the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA), General Counsel's Office, was sentenced in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Richmond, VA, to six months incarceration on two counts to be served concurrently, three months supervised probation, \$6,352 restitution, and \$200 special assessment.

On February 23, 2006, Mitchell plead guilty in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Richmond, VA, to a single count of making False Statements in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001, and to a single count of Bank Fraud in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1344.

An investigation determined that Mitchell used a social security number not assigned to her on an application for her Government Travel Card and also on an application for residence in Petersburg, VA. Additionally, it was determined that Mitchell made false representations on portions of her "Questionnaire for National Security," which was required to be completed for her appointment as an attorney for DeCA. A search warrant revealed multiple copies of her DeCA issued, United States Government Identification Card with the name, date of birth and social security sections reflecting false information.

The investigation was conducted by the Defense Criminal Investigative Service (the criminal investigative arm of the OIG, DoD). The prosecution was handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Wallace of the U.S. Attorneys Office, Eastern District of Virginia, Richmond, VA.

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

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