



Department of Defense  
Office of the Inspector General

# Information Release

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INFORMATION RELEASE

November 16, 2004

## **Maryland Man Pleads Guilty to Defrauding the Government of \$412,000**

The Office of Inspector General (OIG), Department of Defense (DoD), announced today that on November 16, 2004, Mark Lassiter of Fort Washington, MD, pled guilty to a single count of Theft of Government Property, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 641 in the United States District Court, Eastern District of Virginia, Alexandria, VA, before the Honorable Claude M. Hilton, United States District Judge.

Lassiter owned and operated a supply vendor company, MLS, Incorporated, located in Fort Washington, MD, which sold building and maintenance supplies to the Pentagon Building Management Office (PBMO), at the Defense Pentagon, since 1999. Lassiter and former PBMO employee, Kevin Hawkins, who was sentenced on June 18, 2004, participated in a fraudulent scheme to defraud the Government through the misuse of several Government Purchase Cards. The Investigation revealed that from approximately May 1999 through April 2002, Lassiter received \$412,000 from the Government as a result of receiving fraudulently PBMO purchase orders from Hawkins and then charging the GPC for fictitious supplies from his company.

Lassiter is scheduled for sentencing on February 18, 2005, at 9:00 AM.

The investigation was conducted by the Defense Criminal Investigative Service, DoDIG. The case is currently being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Robert Erickson, Eastern District of Virginia.

For further information, contact Joseph A. McMillan, Special Agent in Charge (SAC), Mid-Atlantic Field Office, Arlington, VA (703) 604-8410.

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