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Local Company Pleads Guilty to the Unlicensed Export of Ballistic Helmets

(Alexandria, Virginia) - Alpine Armoring, Inc., headquartered in Herndon, Virginia, pled guilty yesterday to the unlicensed export of ballistic helmets to Surinam, in violation of federal law. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, also announced that Fred Khoroushi, president and director of Alpine Armoring, Inc., pled guilty to making false statements on a shipper's export declaration, in violation of federal law. The maximum penalties for Khoroushi's offense are one year of imprisonment and a fine of \$100,000.

According to court documents, Alpine Armoring, Inc., was engaged, in the United States and elsewhere, in the business of selling and exporting various commodities and articles, some of which were subject to export controls maintained by the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. Department of State.

In January 2002, Alpine Armoring, Inc., shipped an order of ballistic helmets to the Centrale Banke Van Suriname without first obtaining a license for the shipment from the U.S. Department of Commerce. The ballistic helmets were classified under an Export Control Classification Number, and were controlled by the Department of Commerce for anti-terrorism and national security reasons; thus, a license was required for their export.

In the shipment of ballistic helmets, Khoroushi included a signed Shipper's Export Declaration for submission to the Secretary of the Treasury. In the Shipper's Export Declaration, Khoroushi falsely stated that no license was required for the shipment of ballistic helmets, when in fact, a license was required.

Fred Khoroushi and Alpine Armoring, Inc., have agreed to pay \$200,000 in criminal fines and civil sanctions.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of Export Enforcement; U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and, the Defense Criminal Investigative Service. Assistant United States Attorneys Patricia Haynes and Jim Gillis prosecuted the case on behalf of the United States.