



U.S. Department of Justice

Jeffrey A. Taylor
United States Attorney
for the District of Columbia

Judiciary Center
555 4th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

PRESS RELEASE

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For Information, Contact Public Affairs
Channing Phillips (202) 514-6933

**Former NASA employee sentenced on charges of false statements and
acts affecting a financial interest**

Washington, D.C. - A federal judge has sentenced a former NASA employee to two years of probation following the defendant's guilty plea in November of 2006 to the charges of false statements and acts affecting a financial interest, announced U.S. Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor, Joseph Persichini, Jr., Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI's Washington Field Office and Robert Cobb, Inspector General of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Michael J. Peters, 65, of Leesburg, Virginia, was sentenced today in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia before the Honorable Emmet G. Sullivan. In addition to the period of probation, Judge Sullivan ordered the defendant to pay a fine of \$25,500, and to perform 500 hours of community service.

According to the Statement of Offense signed by the defendant, from April 2002 to August 2003, Michael J. Peters (Peters) worked as a Senior Analyst in the Office of the Administrator for NASA, located at 300 E Street, SW, Washington, D.C. Peters' job at NASA was to evaluate and recommend financial software so that NASA's senior leadership could access the various NASA centers' budgets and expenditures from a central location. Peters recommended that NASA purchase a software product from a company known as Open System Sciences (OSS). At the same time, OSS was paying Peters, through intermediaries, \$25,500 to develop and market the OSS software product. In addition, Peters intentionally omitted information about OSS's payments to him and disguised the payments on his Public Financial Disclosure Report which he submitted to NASA. Peters also was required to file a Questionnaire for National Security Position, which requires the federal employee to list all employment activities, including part-time work. Peters failed to list OSS or the intermediary anywhere on this form.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Taylor, Assistant Director in Charge Persichini and Inspector General Cobb commended Special Agent Jason Cassata of NASA's Office of Inspector General and Special Agent John Jacobs of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. In addition, they commended Legal Assistant April Peeler and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Daniel Butler and Virginia Cheatham.