



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

*United States Attorney Donald W. Washington
Western District of Louisiana*

United States Courthouse • 300 Fannin Street, Suite 3201 • Shreveport, Louisiana 71101-3068 • (318) 676-3600
United States Courthouse • 800 Lafayette Street, Suite 2200 • Lafayette, Louisiana 70501-7206 • (337) 262-6618

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Contact: Donald W. Washington (337-262-6618)
William J. Flanagan (318-676-3600)

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MILITARY CONTRACTORS INDICTED BY FEDERAL GRAND JURY

Three Contractors Extradited to Lafayette, Louisiana From Kuwait by U.S. Marshals

Lafayette, Louisiana . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington, along with the United States Marshal's Service, announced the indictment of three military contractors for seven alleged federal offenses committed in Iraq.

A seven-count indictment was returned by a federal grand jury last week, which includes conspiracy, kidnapping, use of a firearm during a crime of violence, assault and tampering with a witness.

Three employees, RONALD L. BROUSSARD, JR., ALAN BEATY and ROBERT BOWLIN, SR., all of whom worked for Department of Defense military contractor, Special Operations Consulting Security Management Group, Inc., allegedly kidnapped a foreign national at gunpoint while working at Camp Al-Asad Air Base located in Iraq. Three Deputy U.S. Marshals from Lafayette and one from Shreveport traveled to Kuwait to extradite the three military contractors.

The contractors are being prosecuted under 18 U.S.C. Section 3261, which is commonly referred to as the Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act or MEJA. MEJA received national attention with the recent surrender of five Blackwater security guards to the Federal Courthouse in Utah earlier this week. MEJA

essentially extends the “arm” of federal criminal jurisdiction to contractors who accompany the military overseas.

The U.S. Marshal Service (USMS) is responsible for tracking fugitives who flee the territorial boundaries of the United States. The agency has also been designated by the Department of Justice to locate and apprehend fugitives wanted by foreign nations and believed to be in the United States. The agency has the statutory responsibility to extradite international and foreign fugitives after they are captured.

In FY 2007, the Marshals successfully completed a record 772 extraditions/deportations from 64 countries. The USMS operates foreign field offices in Mexico, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic and coordinates law enforcement liaison programs along the borders of Mexico and Canada.

To further extend its investigative reach to foreign locations, the Marshals provide special deputations to approximately 400 regional security officers with the Department of State’s Diplomatic Security Service (DSS). These officers serve at embassies and consulates around the world. To facilitate worldwide coordination, the Department of State has assigned an agent from DSS to the U.S. Marshals’ International Investigations Branch.

Indicted are the following individuals:

RONALD LYNN BROSSARD, JR., age 42, of Lafayette, Louisiana;

ALAN R. BEATY, age 35, of Omeida, Tennessee; and

ROBERT WAYNE BOWLIN, SR., age 40, of Brandon, Mississippi.

If convicted, these defendants face a maximum penalty of not more than five years imprisonment, a fine up to \$250,000.00 and a term of not more than three years supervised release following confinement on the conspiracy charge; any term of years up to life, a fine up to \$250,000.00 and a term of not more than five years supervised release following confinement on the kidnapping charge; not more than ten years imprisonment, a fine up to \$250,000.00 and a term of not more than three years supervised release after

confinement on the assault charge; and not more than 20 years imprisonment, a fine up to \$250,000.00, and a term up to three years supervised release following confinement on each tampering with a witness charge.

All indictments are merely accusations and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. Defendants are entitled to a presumption of innocence under the law, and the government has the burden of proving every element of the charges beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Navy Criminal Investigative Service. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephanie A. Finley.

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