

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

HANNIBAL WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CHARGES OF GOVERNMENT THEFT

St. Louis, MO: Teresa Shrum pled guilty to federal charges of theft and conversion of government funds involving the use of a friend's government issued credit card to pay phony invoices that Shrum prepared, United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway announced today.

According to documents filed with the court, Steven Brown was a civilian employee at the Arnold, Missouri facility of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), which is part of the United States Department of Defense, from 1984 until he was suspended in July 2007. Brown's job duties at NGA included purchasing office and computer supplies, and NGA issued Brown a Government funded credit card, commonly referred to as a P-Card, that he could use to purchase supplies of the agency. In July 2005, Shrum started a company called Infiniti Business Solutions ("IBS"), with Shrum listing the type of business in city records as "credit card merchant processing."

During 2004-2006, a personal relationship developed between Brown and Shrum, and Brown periodically provided financial assistance to Shrum, including help with a car loan. Brown and Shrum met in February 2007 for dinner and discussed using Brown's P-card for their personal use. Between February 2007 and the end of July 2007, Shrum and Brown used Brown's Government P-card to steal and convert approximately \$284,892 from the Government by creating false invoices for computer equipment and various supplies that IBS did not provide to the Government at the time of the purchases, always making sure that each transaction never exceeded the \$3000 single purchase limit of Brown's card. A credit card transaction exceeding \$3000 would have required Brown to seek supervisory authorization at NGA before payment could be made. Later, but only after her indictment, Shrum did send some computer equipment worth approximately \$23,500 to the Department of Defense NGA during August 2008.

Teresa Shrum, 33, Hannibal, MO, pled guilty to one felony count of theft of public money today before United States District Judge Charles A. Shaw. She now faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and/or fines up to \$250,000, when she is sentenced on January 20, 2009.

Co-defendant Brown, 49, Godfrey, IL; pled guilty October 7 to the same charge, one felony count of theft of public money. Brown now faces a maximum penalty of ten years in prison and/or fines up to \$250,000, when he is sentenced on December 30, 2008.

NGA's mission is to provide timely, relevant and accurate geospatial intelligence in support of the nation. The term "geospatial intelligence" means the exploitation and analysis of imagery and geospatial information to describe, assess and visually depict physical features and geographically referenced activities on the Earth. Headquartered in Bethesda, Md., NGA (www.nga.mil) has major facilities in the Washington, D.C., Northern Virginia and St. Louis, Mo., areas and has NGA support teams worldwide.

Hanaway commended the work on the case by the Defense Criminal Investigative Service of the United States Department of Defense and the Office of Inspector General for NGA.