



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Robert Pitman, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On the web: www.usdoj.gov/usao/txw/index.html

Daryl Fields, Public Information Officer
(210) 384-7440

June 1, 2012

**SENTENCES HANDED DOWN TO FOUR
IN CONNECTION WITH STOLEN AVIATION FUEL INVESTIGATION IN EL PASO**

United States Attorney Robert Pitman announced that in El Paso yesterday afternoon, 52-year-old Tomas Hermann Quintero was sentenced to 30 months in federal prison for his role in a scheme to steal an estimated \$290,000 worth of aviation fuel from Biggs Army Airfield in El Paso.

According to public records, in May 2008, federal law enforcement officials learned of the theft of jet fuel from a El Paso-based commercial company which had a contract with the Department of Defense Energy Support Center to provide aircraft fuel to military and Federal civilian aircraft at Biggs Army Airfield. A subsequent investigation revealed that from January 2007 through September 2010, two employees—Quintero and 63-year-old Luis Campos—conspired to steal aviation fuel while the fuel was physically stored at Biggs AAF and then sell the stolen fuel for cash to 55-year-old Fernando Baca and his brother, 58-year-old Ricardo J. Baca, to use in the operation of their commercial gravel trucks. Fernando Baca also falsified fuel receipts and used these receipts to increase his business expenses for income tax purposes.

In March, Quintero pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit theft of public property and theft on Government property and one count of tax evasion for failing to report income he made in 2008 from the sale of stolen jet fuel.

On May 25, 2012, Fernando Baca was sentenced to 15 months in federal prison after pleading guilty in February to one count of conspiracy to commit theft of public property and theft on Government property plus one count of false statement to the IRS on his 2008 tax return for knowingly inflating his business expenses. On May 24, 2012, Campos was sentenced to four months incarceration followed by four months of home confinement after pleading guilty in March to the conspiracy charge. On May 22, 2012, Richard Baca was sentenced to five years probation after pleading guilty in March to the conspiracy charge.

In addition to the prison terms, U.S. District Judge David Briones ordered that the defendants pay combined restitution to the Defense Energy Support Center-Defense Logistics Agency, U.S. Department of Transportation and Internal Revenue Service as follows: Quintero, \$362,134.10; Fernando Baca, \$343,832.10; Campos, \$318,328.10; and, Richard Baca, \$83,814.78.

The investigation was conducted by the Department of Defense, Criminal Investigative Service (DCIS); Department of Transportation - Office of Inspector General; Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigations and U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command - Major Procurement Fraud Unit with assistance from the Criminal Investigation Division of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. Assistant U.S. Attorney William F. Lewis, Jr., prosecuted this case on behalf of the Government.

#####