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PROFESSIONALISM
PRODUCTIVITY
PERSEVERANCE

As of June 30, 2012, investigations of the Cockerham conspiracy had yielded:

22 convictions

\$61.5M restitutions/recoveries/fines/forfeitures

72+ years prison sentencings (14 of 22 convictions)

31 individuals
26 companies suspended or debarred from U.S. government contracting

The Cockerham Conspiracy AN INSIDIOUS WEB OF U.S. CONTRACTING OFFICIALS, CONTRACTORS, AND THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS



Green Valley Company: Allied Arms Company, Ltd.; and Dewa Projects, Ltd., were debarred based on allegations of participation in a scheme to fraudulently receive calls for supply of bottled water to the U.S. Army in exchange for cash payments to Cockerham and others during 2004-2007.

Green Valley Company
Debarred on 9/17/2008 for 10 years

Allied Arms Co., Ltd.
Debarred on 9/28/2010 for 8 years

Dewa Projects, Ltd.
Debarred on 9/17/2008 for 10 years

John Cockerham
Major, USA
Received more than \$9M in bribes to funnel contracts to several companies while serving as a contracting officer.
Conviction: conspiracy, bribery, and money laundering
Sentence: 17+ years prison; \$9.6M restitution



U.S. Army Major John Cockerham leaving the federal court house July 25, 2007, in San Antonio, Texas. (photo by John Davenport, The San Antonio Express-News/AP)



More than \$1.7M seized from a safety deposit box leased by Melissa Cockerham. (Army CID-MPFU photo)

Cockerham Task Force
These cases required the collaborative efforts of Department of Justice prosecutors and these investigative agencies:

- Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command-Major Procurement Fraud Unit
- IRS Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation
- Defense Criminal Investigative Service
- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Freedom Consulting and Catering
One of several companies owned by Terry Hall; suspended on 3/7/2008

Terry Hall
Army contractor
Paid \$3+M in bribes to Army contracting officials in exchange for \$20+M in contracts and purchases for his companies.
Conviction: bribery and money laundering
Sentence: 3+ years prison; \$15.7+M restitution

Eddie Pressley
Major, USA
Demanded and received \$2.9M in bribes to award contracts and purchases while serving as contracting officer; laundered the proceeds through foreign accounts.
Conviction: 22 counts of bribery, conspiracy, honest services fraud, money laundering, and transactions with criminal proceeds
Sentence: 12 years prison; \$21M forfeiture

Eurica Pressley
Civilian; Eddie Pressley's wife
Received bribes for her husband, opened accounts in Dubai and the Cayman Islands, and set up a sham company called EGP Solutions to launder proceeds through falsified invoices.
Conviction: 22 counts of bribery, conspiracy, honest services fraud, money laundering, and transactions with criminal proceeds
Sentence: 6 years prison

Dorothy Ellis
Senior employee of Terry Hall
Established secret bank accounts in the Philippines to transfer bribe payments for Army contracting officers in exchange for confidential contract pricing information.
Conviction: bribery
Sentence: 3+ years prison; \$360K restitution

James Momon
Major, USA
Took over for John Cockerham as contracting officer, accepting bribes from DoD contracting firms (including those owned by Terry Hall) to award contracts and purchases.
Conviction: bribery and conspiracy
Sentence: awaiting sentencing; agreed to \$5.8M restitution

Christopher Murray
Major, USA
Accepted \$225K in bribes from contracting firms (including those owned by Terry Hall), while serving as contracting officer.
Conviction: bribery and false statements
Sentence: nearly 5 years prison; \$245K restitution

Wajdi Birjas
Employee of DoD contractor to the Host Nation Affairs Office
Paid bribes to contracting officers and assisted them in laundering funds to secure award of \$1.7M in contracts; received a share of the profits.
Conviction: bribery and money laundering
Sentence: awaiting sentencing

Richard Evick
Sergeant First Class, USA
Accepted \$170+K in bribes from 2 companies in exchange for improperly disclosing information on U.S. military contracts while serving as a procurement official with James Momon and Christopher Murray; assisted efforts to retrieve and launder \$200K-\$250K of Momon's bribe money through U.S. and Kuwaiti bank accounts.
Conviction: conspiracy, bribery, conspiracy, money laundering, and obstructing an agency proceeding.
Sentence: awaiting sentencing

Crystal Martin
Master Sergeant, USA
Assisted efforts to retrieve and launder \$200K-\$250K of James Momon's bribe money through U.S. and Kuwaiti bank accounts while operating concession stands at U.S. military installations in Kuwait.
Conviction: conspiracy, bribery and money laundering
Sentence: awaiting sentencing

Charles Bowie
Major, USA
Conspired to construct a sham consulting agreement to conceal \$400K in payments from a contracting firm.
Conviction: money laundering
Sentence: 2 years prison; \$400K restitution

Melissa Cockerham
Civilian; John Cockerham's wife
Accepted \$1.4M in bribes for her husband; stored money in safety deposit boxes in Kuwait and Dubai.
Conviction: money laundering (admitted to obstructing the investigation)
Sentence: 3+ years prison; \$1.4M restitution

Carolyn Blake
Civilian; John Cockerham's sister
Accepted \$3+M in bribes for her brother; stored money in safety deposit boxes in Kuwait.
Conviction: money laundering (admitted to obstructing the investigation)
Sentence: nearly 6 years prison; \$3.1M restitution

Nyree Pettaway
Civilian; John Cockerham's niece
Created cover stories for millions that Cockerham received; traveled to Kuwait to receive cash to hold for Cockerham.
Conviction: conspiracy
Sentence: 1 year prison; \$5M restitution

Tijani Saani
Civilian; DoD contracting officer
Failed to report \$2.4+M in income and foreign bank accounts in 5 countries.
Conviction: filing false income tax returns
Sentence: 9+ years prison; \$1.6M fine; \$816+K restitution

Markus McClain
Captain, USA
Accepted \$15K and other things of value to help extend a contract for a firm while serving as contract administrator.
Conviction: accepting illegal gratuities
Sentence: awaiting sentencing

Levonda Selph
Colonel, USA
Accepted a vacation to Thailand and other things totaling \$9K in exchange for approving a \$12M warehouse contract for Lee Dynamics International.
Conviction: bribery and conspiracy
Sentence: 1 year prison; \$5K fine; \$9K restitution

Kevin Davis
Colonel, USA
While serving as senior member of the source selection board, accepted airplane tickets and \$50K from a contractor that was awarded a \$12M warehouse contract by the board.
Conviction: accepting illegal gratuities
Sentence: awaiting sentencing

Starcon, Ltd.
Debarred on 6/17/2009 for 9 years

Lee Dynamics International
Debarred on 6/17/2009 for 10 years

Justin Lee
Civilian; President of Lee Dynamics International
Conspired with others to pay more than \$1.2M in bribes to DoD contracting officers in exchange for official acts.
Conviction: conspiracy and bribery
Sentence: awaiting sentencing



Tikrit warehouse that was part of the \$12 million DoD contract awarded to Lee Dynamics International.

Associated Conspirators
Derrick Shoemake
(Lieutenant Colonel, USA)
Accepted \$250K to assist contractors with deliveries while serving as a contracting officer's representative.
Conviction: bribery
Sentence: 3+ years prison; \$181.9K restitution; \$68.1K forfeiture

Nicole Luvera
(Captain, USA)
Stole \$48K from a disbursing safe in Iraq and created false records to cover the theft.
Conviction: theft
Sentence: awaiting sentencing

Amasha King
(Sergeant, USA)
Accepted \$20.5K for preferentially processing a contractor's invoices while serving as a finance clerk.
Conviction: conspiracy to defraud the United States
Sentence: 3 months prison; 5 years probation; \$20.5K restitution

The case of former U.S. Army Major John Cockerham was perhaps the most significant criminal conspiracy uncovered during the Iraq reconstruction effort. Contractors, U.S. contracting officials, and third-country nationals participated in various acts of fraud, including the exchange of millions of dollars in bribes for tens of millions of dollars in contracts in Iraq and Kuwait. The case was fraught with intrigue: one military officer who received bribes committed suicide after being caught; another key player was murdered. To date, a total of 22 individuals have been convicted, with additional suspects still facing charges. Prison sentences have ranged up to 17.5 years. The scope of criminal activity discovered by the Cockerham Task Force was significant, revealing a pattern of widespread contract fraud at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, a principal supply hub for the Iraq reconstruction program. The gargantuan investigation involved the analysis of more than 2 million documents, the issuance of about 50 search warrants, and the conduct of more than 400 interviews.

Following Money: Deposit Locations for Illicit Gains

