

Department of Justice

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**Former U.S. Army Major Sentenced to 18 Months in Prison for
Bribery Scheme Related to Department of Defense Contracts in
Kuwait**

*To Date, 19 Individuals Have Pleaded Guilty or Been Convicted at Trial in
Ongoing Corruption Investigation*

WASHINGTON – A former U.S. Army Major was sentenced today to 18 months in prison for his participation in a bribery scheme related to his activities as a contracting official in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, in 2005 and 2006, announced Assistant Attorney General Lanny A. Breuer of the Justice Department's Criminal Division.

James Momon Jr., 40, of Alexandria, Va., was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Emmet G. Sullivan in the District of Columbia. In addition to his prison term, Momon was sentenced to serve three years of supervised release and pay \$5.8 million in restitution, jointly and severally with co-defendants.

Momon pleaded guilty on Aug. 13, 2008, to two counts of bribery and one count of conspiracy.

According to plea documents, Momon, was involved in a criminal conspiracy to accept cash bribes from multiple U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) contracting firms that supplied bottled water and other goods and services to U.S. military bases in Kuwait. In return, Momon assisted in the award of contracts as well as blanket purchase agreements (BPA) – contracts that allow DoD to order supplies on an as-needed basis at a pre-negotiated price. Momon agreed to accept approximately \$5.8 million from his co-conspirators as payment for his actions, including \$1.6 million in cash and luxury items.

According to plea documents, Momon took over contracting duties at Camp Arifjan from former U.S. Army Major John C. Cockerham, who served as a contracting official in Kuwait in 2004 and 2005. Cockerham, who solicited and received bribes from DoD contractors in exchange for contracts and BPAs for bottled water and other goods and services, pleaded guilty for his role in the conspiracy in February 2008 and was sentenced to serve 210 months in prison and ordered to pay \$9 million in restitution.

To date, a total of 19 individuals have pleaded guilty or been convicted at trial in the ongoing investigation of corrupt contracting at Camp Arifjan.

This case was prosecuted by Trial Attorneys Peter C. Sprung, Eric G. Olshan, Edward J. Loya Jr. and Timothy J. Kelly of the Criminal Division's Public Integrity Section. The case is being investigated by special agents of the Defense Criminal Investigative Service, the Army Criminal Investigation Command Division, Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation, the FBI and the Special Inspector General for Iraqi Reconstruction.

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Criminal Division