

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**

**AUSA VICKIE E. LEDUC or**

**MARCIA MURPHY at 410-209-4885**

**April 1, 2013**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/md>**

-----

**POTOMAC MAN SENTENCED FOR OBSTRUCTING INVESTIGATIONS TO OBTAIN/MAINTAIN A GOVERNMENT SECURITY CLEARANCE**

Baltimore, Maryland - U.S. District Judge Ellen L. Hollander sentenced Gurpreet Singh Kohli, age 58, of Potomac, Maryland, late on March 29, 2013, to six months of home detention with electronic monitoring, as part of three years' probation, for obstruction of agency proceedings, in connection with false statements he made to investigators during his background investigation for a high level government security clearance. Judge Hollander also ordered Kohli to pay a fine of \$30,000.

The sentence was announced by United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein; Special Agent in Charge Stephen E. Vogt of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; Special Agent in Charge William Winter of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Service - Mid-Atlantic Field Office (DCIS).

"The Defense Criminal Investigative Service is committed to supporting America's warfighter and protecting the interest of the American taxpayers" said Robert Craig, Special Agent in Charge for the DCIS Mid-Atlantic Field Office. "The technology developed to support our warfighters is key to their safety and safety of all Americans. DCIS is committed to pursuing anyone who purposefully endangers our warfighters and our national security for personal gain".

According to his plea agreement, from November 2002 through March 2011, Kohli operated NAVTEC, LLC from his residence and locations in India. NAVTEC was registered with the U.S. Department of State to act as a broker in the sale and transfer of U.S. manufactured defense electronics and related components. NAVTEC represented U.S. based manufacturers and suppliers of sophisticated defense electronics. The majority of NAVTECs customers were Indian government and military and defense-related agencies. Kohli was responsible for the day to day decision making and operations of NAVTEC.

From September 2003 through April 4, 2011, Kohli also held a full-time position with a defense electronics and weapons manufacturer based in Maryland, for which he was required to obtain and maintain a U.S. government security clearance. As part of his job, Kohli was involved in developing business opportunities with Indian military and defense-related government entities. Kohli did not reveal to his employer the full scope of his activities with NAVTEC, nor did he reveal his employment with the Maryland company to all of NAVTEC's U.S. based clients.

Kohli admitted that during two separate background investigations by the Office of Personnel Management relative to his security clearance, required to maintain his employment with the Maryland defense contractor, he made a number of false statements and representations regarding his activities for NAVTEC and his contacts with foreign nationals. Specifically, Kohli minimized the nature and scope of his activities with NAVTEC and under oath denied that he had any established foreign business contacts or associations with Indian government organizations. Other false statements included that his contact with foreign nationals was limited to relatives in India; that his foreign business travel was limited to attending trade and air shows on behalf of the Maryland defense contractor; and that his contact with a foreign government or its representatives was limited to business meetings in the U.S. on behalf of the Maryland defense contractor. During a follow-up interview with an OPM investigator on March 9, 2011, Kohli falsely denied having any other employment or business ventures outside of his employment with the Maryland defense contractor.

In fact, Kohli admits that he traveled to India periodically to meet with NAVTEC's Indian government clients and conduct NAVTEC business. Occasionally, Kohli was accompanied by representatives of the defense electronics manufacturers/suppliers that NAVTEC represented, as well as his son, who assisted with NAVTEC business.

On September 7, 2010, Kohli was interviewed by agents from the FBI and ICE Homeland Security Investigations in relation to his son's pending application for employment with the FBI. Kohli minimized his son's role with NAVTEC, his contact with NAVTEC's U.S. clients and Indian customers, and falsely stated that his wife ran NAVTEC. Kohli also lied about the purpose of his Indian travel, stating that his foreign travel was limited to matters involving his employment with the Maryland defense contractor and that he did not meet with Indian government officials.

United States Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein praised the FBI, HSI Baltimore and DCIS for their work in the investigation. Mr. Rosenstein thanked Assistant U.S. Attorney Christine Manuelian, who prosecuted the case.