



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

October 14, 2005

FORMER SOCOM EMPLOYEE PLEADS GUILTY TO BRIBERY

Tampa, Florida - United States Attorney Paul I. Perez today announced that William E. Burke, a 50 year old resident of Odessa, Florida, pleaded guilty to a one count Information which charged Mr. Burke with bribery. The maximum penalty that Mr. Burke faces is fifteen years' imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, a term of supervised release of not more than five years, and a special assessment of \$100.

According to the plea agreement, Mr. Burke had been employed by the Sentel Corporation. As such, he had been assigned to the United States Special Operations Command (SOCOM) which is located at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida, in the Middle District of Florida. Mr. Burke had been assigned to SOCOM since 1999.

Among other matters, Mr. Burke was hired to provide analysis, acquisition and sustainment of special operations forces unique equipment and material. Mr. Burke was assigned to the Special Operations Acquisitions and Logistics Center Organization. Specifically, he was assigned to the International and Industry Division of the Special Operations Acquisitions and Logistics Center.

Mr. Burke and another individual entered into an agreement whereby Mr. Burke would give preferential treatment in the contracting process to contractors who were represented by this other individual. As a result, this other individual paid Mr. Burke, through their respective companies, \$4,500 in two, separate payments for Mr. Burke's assistance.

This investigation was initiated by SOCOM and the case was investigated by Department of Defense, Defense Criminal Investigative Service, Office of the Inspector General; Federal Bureau of Investigation; and U.S. Special Operations Command, Inspector General's Office. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill.