



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Joseph H. Hogsett
Southern District of Indiana

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CONTACT: TIM HORTY
(317) 229-2409
tim.horty@usdoj.gov

HOGSETT ANNOUNCES WIRE FRAUD CHARGES AGAINST FORMER INDIANA NATIONAL GUARD EMPLOYEE

Program manager allegedly stole hundreds of thousands of dollars of U.S. Army funds

PRESS RELEASE

INDIANAPOLIS – In early 2012, United States Attorney Joseph H. Hogsett announced a redoubling of federal efforts to combat fraud, waste and abuse on the part of public officials and those in positions of trust. As part of this effort, the U.S. Attorney’s Office created its first Public Integrity Working Group to assist in the investigation and prosecution of cases involving public corruption and white collar crimes.

Today, Hogsett announced more results in this ongoing effort with the filing of federal charges against Angela Watson, age 51, of Indianapolis. The defendant is accused of having used her position as a program analyst with the Indiana National Guard to commit more than \$200,000 in wire fraud, using National Guard funds to make unauthorized purchases. Along with the filing of charges today, Watson has also filed a petition with the court to plead guilty to this charge.

“Last year, we gave notice to those immersed in this state’s culture of corruption that their time was up,” Hogsett said. “Through the work of our Public Integrity Working group, we have continued to send that message, and cases such as this make clear how seriously federal law treats those who abuse the public’s trust.”

The Information alleges that Watson served as a program analyst for the Indiana National Guard from 1993 until early 2011. As part of her position, Watson was assigned and authorized to use a federally-funded government purchase card (“GPC”) in order to purchase authorized items for the Indiana National Guard. All of these GPC purchases were funded with U.S. Army funds.

The alleged scheme, which lasted from 2008 until late 2010, involved Watson using her GPC to make unauthorized personal purchases, including items from stores such as Wal-Mart,

Sears, Staples and Best Buy. These items included jewelry, electronics, household appliances, home installations, gift cards, clothing, tools and food.

After these purchases were made, Watson would allegedly submit false and fraudulent receipts to the Indiana National Guard that indicated she had purchased valid items. When these receipts could not be fabricated, it is alleged that Watson would submit memorandums to the Indiana National Guard that explained the absence of receipts, and purported to explain the items that were purchased using those funds. These reports were also allegedly false and fraudulent.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney MaryAnn T. Mindrum, who is prosecuting the case for the government, Watson has petitioned the U.S. District Court to enter a plea to the charge of wire fraud. If accepted by a U.S. District Judge, Watson faces up to 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, as well as up to 3 years of federally-supervised release.

The indictment also indicates that, if convicted, the federal government will seek to seize Watson's assets that were attained through criminal activity. This prosecution was the result of a collaborative investigation involving the Department of Defense, Defense Criminal Investigative Service, and the United States Army, Criminal Investigations Command.

An indictment or information is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. All defendants are presumed innocent and are entitled to a fair trial at which the government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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