



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
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ALEXANDRIA NEWPORT NEWS NORFOLK RICHMOND

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Former DOD Official and Associate Sentenced for Conflict of Interest and Conspiracy Charges

(Alexandria, Virginia) - James E. Wright, 55, of Sterling, Va., and John D. Villanueva, 45, of Lorton, Va., were sentenced today to six months in prison, to be followed by two years of supervised release. Each had been found guilty on October 10, 2008, of conflict of interest charges. Dana J. Boente, Acting United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia; Joseph Persichini, Jr., Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI's Washington Field Office; and Sharon E. Woods, Director of the Defense Criminal Investigative Service (DCIS), made the announcement after sentencing by U.S. District Judge Liam O'Grady.

According to court documents, between June 2004 and November 2005 Wright, the former Director of the Security and Counterintelligence Directorate for the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) at Fort Belvoir, Va., conspired with Villanueva to commit a conflict of interest. Wright and Villanueva formed a corporation, VMW & Associates, to obtain government contract work. When DTRA decided to request proposals for a contract worth approximately \$450,000, Villanueva worked out an agreement with another company for that company to submit a proposal, and if DTRA selected the company for the contract, the company would subcontract the work to VMW. Wright then took various actions to steer the contract for his benefit, including acting as the Source Selection Authority who awarded the contract to the second company for subcontracting to VMW. Wright never disclosed to other officials at DTRA that he had a financial interest in VMW.

This case was investigated by the FBI and DCIS. Assistant United States Attorney Jack Hanly prosecuted the case on behalf of the United States.

A copy of this press release may be found on the website of the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia at <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/vae>. Related court documents and information may be found on the website of the District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia at <http://www.vaed.uscourts.gov> or on <http://pacer.uspci.uscourts.gov>.