



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

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**LAND O'LAKES WOMAN INDICTED FOR
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CONTRACTING FRAUD**

Tampa, Florida - United States Attorney Paul I. Perez today announced the unsealing of an indictment charging Wendy Cerne Askew, a forty-three year old resident of Land O' Lakes, Florida, with thirteen counts of wire fraud. Askew faces a maximum penalty of 20 years' imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000 on each count. Askew was arrested today and will make her initial appearance in federal court this afternoon. A grand jury returned the indictment on April 5, 2006.

According to the indictment, from approximately January 2002 through May 2004, Askew worked for Anovastar, L.L.C., 1 Nation Technology Corporation and 1 Nation Electronics, L.L.C., all of which operated – at one time or another – from the same address in Oldsmar, Florida.

While Askew was employed by the 1 Nation companies, Askew submitted bids via the internet for government contracts to provide electronic component parts to the

Department of Defense. The contracts required that the contractor deliver new parts in accordance with strict specifications. The indictment alleges that in bidding for the contracts, Askew falsely represented that she would comply with the specifications of the contracts. After she was awarded the contract, however, Askew intentionally provided cheaper parts that did not comply with the specifications. According to the indictment, when she delivered the parts, Askew again falsely certified that the parts complied with all contract specifications, and indicated that payment was due to 1 Nation. The parts that Askew contracted to provide were used in various applications in Air Force and Navy aircraft and ships.

As a result of the alleged fraudulent statements made by Askew in securing the contracts, the United States paid \$102,844.97 to 1 Nation, and Askew personally received higher commissions as a portion of her pay.

The case was investigated by the Department of Defense, Defense Criminal Investigative Service and the Air Force Office of Special Investigations and will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Pamela C. Marsh.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.