

30 PROJECTS, 30 YEARS

Army Officer Pleads Guilty to Conspiracy, Bribery and Money Laundering Scheme Involving Department of Defense Contracts at U.S. Army Base in Kuwait

JUN 24

A U.S. Army officer and his wife pleaded guilty for their conduct related to a conspiracy, bribery and money laundering scheme involving contracts awarded in support of the Iraq war. John Cockerham admitted to participating in a complex bribery and money laundering scheme while working as an Army major deployed to Kuwait. He was responsible for awarding contracts for services to be delivered to troops in Iraq, including bottled water contracts worth millions of dollars. In return for awarding illegal contracts, Cockerham admitted to receiving, or being promised, more than \$9 million in bribes. Once he agreed to take money in exchange for awarding contracts, he directed the contractors to pay his wife, sister and others to hide the fact that contractors were paying him bribes. Melissa Cockerham admitted that she accepted more than \$1 million in illegal bribe payments on her husband's behalf, and that she stored the cash in safe deposit boxes at banks in Kuwait and Dubai.



2008

