



U.S. Department of Justice

*Gregory R. Miller
United States Attorney
Northern District of Florida*

111 N. Adams Street, 4th Floor
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
Telephone (850) 942-8430
Fax (850) 942-8429

21 East Garden Street, Suite 400
Pensacola, FL 32502
Telephone (850) 444-4000
Fax (850) 434-9050

Commerce Building
300 University Avenue, Ste. 310
Gainesville, FL 32601
Telephone (352) 378-0996
Fax (352) 371-1912

Please reply to: Pensacola

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Managing Assistant U.S. Attorney Len Register at (850) 444-4040

PRESS RELEASE

**FEDERAL INSPECTORS IN OPERATION BLUE ROOF INDICTED
FOR SOLICITING BRIBES FOLLOWING HURRICANE IVAN**

Pensacola, Florida - United States Attorney Gregory R. Miller, Northern District of Florida, announced today that Clarence Parnell, age 53, of Vicksburg, Mississippi and Sarah A. Tolbert, age 46, of Pensacola, Florida, have been indicted by the federal grand jury sitting in the Pensacola Division of the Northern District of Florida. Each was charged with soliciting bribes as employees of the Army Corps of Engineers after Hurricane Ivan. The indictment alleges that Parnell and Tolbert were employed as Quality Assurance Inspectors during Operation Blue Roof and, while inspecting the performance of work done by Army Corps of Engineers contractors and subcontractors, solicited money from the contractors and subcontractors, in exchange promising that their inspection results would be favorable.

Both Parnell and Tolbert are charged with one count, Solicitation of Bribes, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 201(b)(2). Both were arrested earlier today without incident. If convicted, each defendant faces a possible penalty of 15 years imprisonment, \$250,000 fine or 3 times the thing of value, whichever is greater, or both; 5 years supervised release; \$100 special monetary assessment.

This case was investigated by the Department of Army - Criminal Investigation Command, and Defense Criminal Investigative Service. The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Michelle M. Heldmyer.

All defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty, beyond every reasonable doubt, in a court of law.