



PRESS RELEASE

*Office of the United States Attorney
Middle District of Florida*

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For Immediate Release

November 8, 2005

FORMER SOCOM OFFICIAL INDICTED

Tampa, Florida - United States Attorney Paul I. Perez today announced that Thomas F. Spellissy, age 48, of Clearwater, and Strategic Defense International, Inc. were indicted by a federal grand jury. It is alleged within the Indictment that Thomas F. Spellissy was the president of Strategic Defense International, Inc., a Florida corporation, which Thomas F. Spellissy incorporated on April 23, 2004.

Both Thomas F. Spellissy and Strategic Defense International, Inc. are charged with five counts. Count One charges the defendants with conspiracy to defraud the United States and to commit offenses against the United States. The maximum penalties for this offense is five years' imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and a term of supervised release of three years. Counts Two and Three of the Indictment charge the defendants with bribery. The maximum penalties for each of the bribery counts is fifteen years' imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and a term of supervised release of five years. Finally, Counts Four and Five charge the defendants with wire fraud. The maximum penalties for the wire fraud

counts are twenty years' imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and a term of supervised release of five years. Mr. Spellissy is expected to turn himself in tomorrow morning and make his initial appearance later in the day.

The investigation was initiated by SOCOM, and the case was investigated by the Department of Defense, Defense Criminal Investigative Service, Office of the Inspector General; Federal Bureau of Investigation; and United States Special Operations Command, Inspector General's Office. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill.

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.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
TAMPA DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

THOMAS F. SPELLISSY
and
STRATEGIC DEFENSE INTERNATIONAL, INC.

CASE NO. 8:05-cr-
18 U.S.C. § 371
18 U.S.C. § 201(b)(1)(A)(B)
and 2
18 U.S.C. §§ 1343, 1346
and 2

INDICTMENT

The Grand Jury charges:

COUNT ONE
(The Conspiracy Count)

A. Introduction

At all times material to this Indictment:

1. Defendant THOMAS F. SPELLISSY was the president of defendant STRATEGIC DEFENSE INTERNATIONAL, INC., which was incorporated in the State of Florida on April 23, 2004.
2. William E. Burke was the president of Carlisle Bradford Enterprises, which was incorporated in the State of Florida on September 9, 2004.
3. The United States Special Operations Command was located at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida. The United States Special Operations Command was part of the United States Department of Defense.
4. Defendant THOMAS F. SPELLISSY was employed as a consultant by various companies seeking to transact business with the United States Special Operations Command.

5. William E. Burke was employed by a private contractor and assigned to the United States Special Operations Command Special Operations Acquisition and Logistics Center, Management Directorate. In that capacity, William E. Burke was acting for and on behalf of the United States and the United States Department of Defense.

B. The Agreement

6. From on or about a date in early 2004 to on or about July 26, 2005, in the Middle District of Florida, and elsewhere,

THOMAS F. SPELLISSY
and
STRATEGIC DEFENSE INTERNATIONAL, INC.,

defendants herein, did unlawfully, willfully and knowingly conspire, combine, confederate and agree with others known and unknown to the grand jury to:

- a. Defraud the United States by impeding, impairing, obstructing, and defeating the lawful government functions of the Department of Defense in the operation of its program in a manner that was honest, fair, and free from deceit, craft, trickery, corruption, and dishonesty; and to
- b. Commit offenses against the United States, to wit:
 - (1) To give, offer, and promise anything of value to any public official, and offer and promise any public official anything of value to any other person and entity, with intent to influence any official act, and to influence such public official to commit and aid in committing, and collude in, and allow, any fraud,

and make opportunity for the commission of any fraud, on the United States, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 201(b)(1)(A) and (B) and 2; and

- (2) Having devised and intending to devise any scheme and artifice to defraud, transmit and cause to be transmitted by means of wire, radio, and television communication in interstate and foreign commerce, any writings, signs, signals, pictures and sounds for the purpose of executing such scheme and artifice, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1343, 1346 and 2.

C. Manner and Means

7. It was a part of the conspiracy that defendant THOMAS F. SPELLISSY would and did form a company, defendant STRATEGIC DEFENSE INTERNATIONAL, INC., which was used to make illegal payments to William E. Burke.

8. It was further part of the conspiracy that William E. Burke would and did form a company, Carlisle Bradford Enterprises, which was used to accept illegal payments from defendant THOMAS F. SPELLISSY.

9. It was further part of the conspiracy that defendant THOMAS F. SPELLISSY would and did notify William E. Burke as to which companies he represented.

10. It was further part of the conspiracy that William E. Burke would and did provide preferential treatment to specific contractors represented by defendant THOMAS F. SPELLISSY.

11. It was further part of the conspiracy that defendant THOMAS F. SPELLISSY would and did provide illegal payments to William E. Burke for providing preferential treatment to certain projects.

D. Overt Acts

In furtherance of the conspiracy and to effect the objects thereof, the following overt acts, among others, were committed in the Middle District of Florida and elsewhere:

(1) On or about April 23, 2004, defendant THOMAS F. SPELLISSY formed a company, defendant STRATEGIC DEFENSE INTERNATIONAL, INC.

(2) On or about September 9, 2004, William E. Burke formed a company, Carlisle Bradford Enterprises.

(3) On or about October 1, 2004, defendants THOMAS F. SPELLISSY and STRATEGIC DEFENSE INTERNATIONAL, INC. sent an electronic message to William E. Burke.

(4) On or about October 1, 2004, William E. Burke sent an electronic message to defendants THOMAS F. SPELLISSY and STRATEGIC DEFENSE INTERNATIONAL, INC.

(5) On or about October 1, 2004, defendants THOMAS F. SPELLISSY and STRATEGIC DEFENSE INTERNATIONAL, INC. sent an electronic message to William E. Burke.

(6) On or about October 2, 2004, William E. Burke sent an electronic message to defendants THOMAS F. SPELLISSY and STRATEGIC DEFENSE INTERNATIONAL, INC.

(7) On or about November 5, 2004, defendants THOMAS F. SPELLISSY and STRATEGIC DEFENSE INTERNATIONAL, INC. sent an electronic message to William E. Burke.

(8) On or about November 18, 2004, defendants THOMAS F. SPELLISSY and STRATEGIC DEFENSE INTERNATIONAL, INC. sent an electronic message to William E. Burke.

(9) On or about November 29, 2004, defendants THOMAS F. SPELLISSY and STRATEGIC DEFENSE INTERNATIONAL, INC. caused an international wire transfer in the amount of \$3,000 to be sent from Nordea Bank Sweden to Bank of America, Scranton, Pennsylvania.

(10) On or about November 30, 2004, William E. Burke, by and through Carlisle Bradford Enterprises, sent a invoice for Technical Services in the amount of \$1,500 to defendant STRATEGIC DEFENSE INTERNATIONAL, INC.

(11) On or about December 1, 2004, defendants THOMAS F. SPELLISSY and STRATEGIC DEFENSE INTERNATIONAL, INC. caused a domestic wire transfer to be sent from Bank of America, Scranton, Pennsylvania to Bank of America, Tampa, Florida, in the amount of \$3,000; \$20 of which was deducted as a fee.

(12) On or about December 1, 2004, defendants THOMAS F. SPELLISSY and STRATEGIC DEFENSE INTERNATIONAL, INC. caused a payment of \$1,500 to be made to Carlisle Bradford Enterprises.

(13) On or about December 21, 2004, defendants THOMAS F. SPELLISSY and STRATEGIC DEFENSE INTERNATIONAL, INC. sent an electronic message to William E. Burke.

(14) On or about January 1, 2005, William E. Burke, by and through Carlisle Bradford Enterprises, sent an invoice for Technical Services in the amount of \$3,000 to defendant STRATEGIC DEFENSE INTERNATIONAL, INC.

(15) On or about January 3, 2005, defendants THOMAS F. SPELLISSY and STRATEGIC DEFENSE INTERNATIONAL, INC. caused an international wire transfer in the amount of \$3,000 to be sent from Nordea Bank Sweden to Bank of America, Scranton, Pennsylvania.

(16) On or about January 5, 2004, defendants THOMAS F. SPELLISSY and STRATEGIC DEFENSE INTERNATIONAL, INC. caused a domestic wire transfer to be sent from Bank of America, Scranton, Pennsylvania to Bank of America, Tampa, Florida, in the amount of \$3,000; \$20 of which was deducted as a fee.

(17) On or about January 6, 2005, defendants THOMAS F. SPELLISSY and STRATEGIC DEFENSE INTERNATIONAL, INC. caused a payment of \$3,000 to be made to Carlisle Bradford Enterprises.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

COUNT TWO
(The Bribery Count)

On or about December 1, 2004, in the Middle District of Florida, and elsewhere,

THOMAS F. SPELLISSY
and
STRATEGIC DEFENSE INTERNATIONAL, INC.,

defendants herein, did, directly and indirectly, knowingly and corruptly, give, offer, and promise anything of value to any public official, that is, William E. Burke, and offer and promise to give anything of value to any other person and entity, with intent to influence any official act, and to influence such public official to commit and aid in committing, and collude in, and allow, any fraud, and make opportunity for the commission of any fraud, on the United States.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 201(b)(1)(A) and (B) and 2.

COUNT THREE
(The Bribery Count)

On or about January 6, 2005, in the Middle District of Florida, and elsewhere,

THOMAS F. SPELLISSY
and
STRATEGIC DEFENSE INTERNATIONAL, INC.,

defendants herein, did, directly and indirectly, knowingly and corruptly, give, offer, and promise anything of value to any public official, that is, William E. Burke, and offer and promise to give anything of value to any other person and entity, with intent to influence any official act, and to influence such public official to commit and aid in committing,

and collude in, and allow, any fraud, and make opportunity for the commission of any fraud, on the United States.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 201(b)(1)(A) and (B) and 2.

COUNTS FOUR AND FIVE
(The Wire Fraud Counts)

1. Parts A, C and D of Count One are realleged and incorporated as if fully set forth in this paragraph.

2. On or about the dates listed below, in the Middle District of Florida, and elsewhere,

THOMAS F. SPELLISSY
and
STRATEGIC DEFENSE INTERNATIONAL, INC.,

defendants herein, for the purpose of executing the aforementioned scheme and artifice to defraud, and for depriving the citizens of the United States of the intangible right of honest services, did knowingly and willfully transmit and cause to be transmitted by means of wire, radio and television communication in interstate commerce, and writings, signs, signals, pictures and sounds for the purpose of executing such scheme and artifice, the wire transmittal described below:

Count	Date	Amount	Wire
Four	12/01/04	\$3,000	Defendants caused a domestic wire transfer to be sent from Bank of America, Scranton, Pennsylvania to Bank of America, Tampa, Florida
Five	01/05/04	\$3,000	Defendants caused a domestic wire transfer to be sent from Bank of America, Scranton, Pennsylvania to Bank of America, Tampa, Florida

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1343, 1346 and 2.

A TRUE BILL,

Foreperson

PAUL I. PEREZ
United States Attorney

By: _____
Robert E. O'Neill
Assistant United States Attorney

By: _____
James R. Klindt
Assistant United States Attorney
First Assistant United States Attorney