



The United States Attorney's Office

Eastern District of North Carolina

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MONDAY - April 25, 2011

MARINE MAJOR SENTENCED FOR RECEIVING ILLEGAL GRATUITIES

RALEIGH - United States Attorney George E.B. Holding announced that in federal court today United States District Judge James C. Dever III, sentenced **RICHARD JOSEPH HARRINGTON**, 38, to 12 months' and one day imprisonment followed by one year supervised release.

A Criminal Information was filed on September 3, 2010. On October 18, 2010, **HARRINGTON** pled guilty to demanding, seeking, and receiving gratuities, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 201(c)(1)(B).

According to statements made in Court, from January, 2005, through December, 2005, **HARRINGTON**, a Major in the United States Marine Corps, was deployed to Camp Fallujah, Iraq, where he served as a contracting officer representative. In that capacity, he acted as the liaison between contractors and the contracting office – inspecting and accepting productions and monitoring their performance to ensure compliance with the contracts.

In April, 2009, an investigation was initiated, during which law enforcement determined that **HARRINGTON** had wrongfully solicited and accepted gratuities from a contractor while performing his duties as the contracting officer representative on a \$2.2 million gym equipment contract with Al Jazaer Group. Three-fourths of the way through the contract, in November, 2005, **HARRINGTON** traveled to Dubai, UAE on official government orders for the purpose of conducting market research involving the procurement of non-tactical vehicles of the U.S. Marine Corps. Before leaving for the trip, **HARRINGTON** told the principal point of contact/corporate representative for Al Jazaer that he wanted to get two Rolex watches. The corporate representative secured the watches and arranged for a third party to give them to **HARRINGTON** while in Dubai.

During the trip, **HARRINGTON** was unofficially accompanied by a representative of AVA International Corporation who paid for the majority of **HARRINGTON's** official expenses to include his flight, hotel, and transportation. The representative also purchased a Persian rug for **HARRINGTON**. **HARRINGTON** subsequently filed a travel reimbursement request claiming \$10,225.81 in expenses and received full reimbursement from the U.S. government.

In late November, 2005, **HARRINGTON** received a Rolex watch valued at \$7,000 from the representative of another corporation interested in future contracts involving non-tactical vehicles. **HARRINGTON** also asked the Al Jazaer Group representative for another Rolex watch and \$35,000 in cash. The representative agreed to get him both.

On November 30, 2005, Al Jazaer Group submitted an invoice for the remaining 25% of the contract. **HARRINGTON** signed off on the requisite documents. Shortly after Al Jazaer Group received payment, the representative gave \$30,000 to **HARRINGTON**. When **HARRINGTON** asked about the other \$5,000, the representative later gave him an additional \$5,000, along with the previously requested Rolex watch.

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In December, 2005, **HARRINGTON** shipped the \$35,000 in a trunk to his residence in Jacksonville, North Carolina, and brought the watches home with him. He did not declare either the currency or the watches on the customs forms.

HARRINGTON later used the gifts of cash to purchase a car, pay off another car loan and buy another Rolex watch upon his return to North Carolina.

In or about April, 2006, **HARRINGTON** e-mailed the Al Jazaer Group representative and asked for the Persian silk rug to be mailed to his father in Florida. In November, 2006, he asked the representative to send him an Omega watch valued at \$5,900. The representative complied with both requests.

After **HARRINGTON** returned from his deployment, the contractor asked for **HARRINGTON's** assistance in getting 30 shipping containers, valued at \$90,000, returned to his company, which were being held by the U.S. Marine Corps. **HARRINGTON** contacted officials at Camp Fallujah to intervene in the dispute over the ownership of the containers and helped Al Jazear get them.

Investigation of this case was conducted by the Department of Defense Criminal Investigative Service, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service and the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction. Assistant United States Attorney Banumathi Rangarajan represented the government.

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