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BREVARD COUNTY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO THEFT OF COPPER WIRE

FROM CAPE CANAVERAL AIR FORCE STATION

Orlando, Florida - Phillip Joseph Vogt III (24, Merritt Island) pleaded guilty today to theft of government property. He faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in federal prison.

According to the facts presented at the change of plea hearing, between November 1, 2010, and April 30, 2011, Vogt and co-defendant James Allen Lee repeatedly entered the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station (CCAFS) with a temporary contractor access badge sponsored by Lee's employer. Once on the base, the men removed large amounts of copper wire from reels in a storage area. The reels of copper wire belonged to the United States Air Force and were the property of the United States. Vogt and Lee then sold the stolen copper wire for more than \$100,000 to recycling centers in Brevard County. After being confronted by investigators, Vogt confessed to his role in the thefts.

James Allen Lee is currently in state custody on unrelated charges.

This case was investigated by United States Air Force - Office of the Inspector General and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) - Office of the Inspector General. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. Bodnar, Jr.

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