



NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**FAIRBANKS MAN INDICTED BY FEDERAL GRAND JURY
FOR THEFT OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY**

Anchorage, Alaska – A federal grand jury in Anchorage indicted a man on a charge of theft over \$20,000 in government property.

Acting United States Attorney Kevin Feldis announced that the one-count indictment named Steven John Helstrom, 56, of Fairbanks, Alaska, as the sole defendant.

According to the indictment, during a two-year period from 2006 to 2008, Helstrom stole government property, consisting of building materials, home furnishing equipment and tools. During the thefts, the property was in the custody of an Army maintenance contractor on Fort Wainwright, Helstrom's employer at that time.

Assistant United States Attorney Stephen Cooper, who presented the case to the grand jury, indicated that the law provides for a maximum total sentence of 10 years in prison, a fine of \$250,000, or both. Under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, the actual sentence imposed would be based upon the seriousness of the offense and the prior criminal history, if any, of the defendant.

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command (CID) conducted the investigation leading to the indictment in this case.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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