

NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney
Laura E. Duffy***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - October 8, 2010

United States Attorney Laura E. Duffy announced that retired Naval Officer Patrick Seidel pled guilty and was sentenced today in federal court in San Diego before United States Magistrate Judge Bernard Skomal to an information charging him with a misdemeanor violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 208, a federal conflict of interest law. Judge Skomal sentenced Seidel to serve one year probation and a fine of \$15,000.00.

According to court records, Seidel was the Major Program Manager for Maritime Surveillance Systems at Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) in San Diego. As the Major Program Manager, Seidel was responsible for the programs that developed, acquired, and supported complex ocean surveillance systems (i.e., antisubmarine programs).

According to court documents, starting in September 2005, Seidel began seeking and negotiating employment with a major defense contractor that sought to perform elements of the antisubmarine warfare program. Seidel's employment negotiations lasted until December 2005, when he accepted employment with the major defense contractor, and received a \$25,000 signing bonus.

During the September 2005 through December 2005 time frame when he was negotiating employment, Seidel (a) invited the defense contractor to send employees to the antisubmarine program's headquarters to see if the contractor could provide the program with services; (b) sent Navy personnel to the contractor's facility to determine if the contractor could provide the program with services; and (c) discussed with Navy personnel how the contractor could assist the Navy's antisubmarine warfare program. In so doing, Seidel participated personally and substantially in matters in which he knew that the contractor had a substantial financial interest, while he was negotiating for employment with the contractor. As Seidel acknowledged in his plea agreement, these simultaneous actions violated federal conflict of interest law.

United States Attorney Duffy stated, "Prior to his retirement, Captain Seidel headed a major defense program at NAVSEA. As this guilty plea makes clear, public employees may not use their influence over the awarding of defense contracts when seeking employment with a defense contractor."

Naval Criminal Investigative Service Special Agent in Charge Jeffrey P. Morrow commented, "The laws prohibiting conflict of interest are clear. This case provides an example that NCIS will pursue government officials that attempt to use their official position for personal gain."

DEFENDANT

Criminal Case No. 10-CR-3927

Patrick Seidel

SUMMARY OF CONVICTION

Title 18, United States Code, Section 208 - Acts Affecting a Personal Financial Interest (Misdemeanor)

PARTICIPATING AGENCY

Naval Criminal Investigative Service