



# Department of Justice

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## **OWNER OF MICHIGAN COMPANY SENTENCED TO 46 MONTHS FOR SELLING SUBSTANDARD PARTS TO U.S. MILITARY**

COLUMBUS – Joseph L. Wilden, owner of the Harrison Township, Michigan-based company Solid Defense, Inc., was sentenced in United States District Court here today to a total of 46 months in prison, after pleading guilty on April 9, 2009 to six counts of wire fraud for billing the government almost \$1 million for military vehicle parts that he knew did not meet military specifications.

William E. Hunt, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, and Special Agent in Charge Richard Zott, Defense Criminal Investigative Service (DCIS), Central Field Office, announced the sentence handed down today by Senior United States District Judge George C. Smith.

According to a statement of facts presented during Wilden's plea hearing, Wilden sold the military critical application parts used on vehicles including tanks, trucks, and other armored and rescue vehicles. The parts were not manufactured in accordance with specifications drawn up by the military.

Some parts were the wrong size. Some were not zinc-plated, as required, or were made from the wrong raw materials. Some parts lacked a required phosphate coating, contained unapproved and improper welding, or showed overall poor workmanship. Wilden admitted that he painted parts to make them appear to be zinc plated or phosphate coated.

Some parts were supposed to have a chemical agent resistance coating, or CARC, which is a special paint to protect surfaces from chemical agents. Wilden substituted regular commercially available paint instead of the coating that resisted chemical agents.

Wilden's sentence also includes an order to make restitution of \$995,449.60 to the United States, representing what he charged the government for the parts. Wilden was also sentenced to three years of supervised release to be served at the conclusion of his prison term.

Hunt commended DCIS Special Agent Michael Hampp who investigated the case, and Assistant U.S. Attorney J. Michael Marous, who prosecuted the case.

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