



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Davilyn Brackin

Public Affairs Specialist

(409) 839-2538

NEDERLAND MAN SENTENCED FOR THEFT OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY

(Beaumont, Texas) A 23-year-old Nederland man has been sentenced to 18 months in federal prison for theft of military computers. **DAVID LAYNE FELLS, JR.**, was also ordered by United States District Judge Thad Heartfield to pay \$2,250 in restitution to the government.

According to information presented in court, in March, 2003, two laptop computers belonging to the 842nd Transportation Battalion, Military Traffic Management Command (MTMC) were reported missing during military deployments out of the Port of Beaumont. An internal investigation was launched by the contractor, the military and the FBI. Fells, a civilian employee of a private firm working with the MTMC during deployments, admitted to stealing the laptops and selling them on the Internet. Fells pleaded guilty in April, 2004.

Matthew D. Orwig, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas, stated, "We are pleased with this sentence. The Port of Beaumont plays a vital role in supporting our nation's military efforts and we applaud the coordinated effort of the civilian contractor, the military, and the FBI in bringing this matter to justice."

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This case was investigated by the military, the contractor and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Randall Fluke prosecuted the case.

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