



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Carter M. Stewart
Southern District of Ohio

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2010
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ohs>

CONTACT: Fred Alverson
614-469-5715

MICHIGAN COMPANY AND OWNER CHARGED WITH FRAUD IN CONNECTION WITH SALE OF PARTS TO U.S. MILITARY

COLUMBUS – A federal grand jury here today indicted Kimball, Michigan-based Lawrence Fabricating Company and company owner Michael O’Chadleus, 45 of St. Clair, Michigan, in a 13-count indictment alleging that they supplied military vehicle that did not meet specifications of the U.S. Department of Defense.

Carter M. Stewart, 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 indictment today.

The indictment alleges that between October 2006 and February 2008 the company billed the Defense Department a minimum of \$90,010.79 for non-conforming parts. The company 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.

The parts included brackets and other parts for the AAV7A1 Amphibious Assault Vehicle, parts for the M88 Tank Recovery vehicle, seat supports for the M60 series tank, ammunition racks and other parts for personnel carriers, remote control levers and other parts for the M1 and M1A1 Abrams Tank, gun elevation guards and other parts used on the Bradley Fighting vehicle.

The defendants allegedly failed to provide parts that conformed to the Government drawings under numerous purchase orders. The indictment alleges that O’Chadleus and the company submitted fraudulent bills to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service located in Columbus.

Each of the counts of wire fraud is punishable by up to 20 years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$250,000.

Stewart commended the investigation by DCIS and Assistant U.S. Attorney J. Michael Marous, who is prosecuting the case.

#