



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

615 Chestnut Street
Suite 1250
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106-4476
(215) 861-8200

October 18, 2011

**U.S. MARINE CORPS SERGEANT CHARGED
WITH THEFT AND DESTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY**

PHILADELPHIA – Christopher M. Cook, a sergeant in the United States Marine Corps, was charged today by Indictment¹ with theft and destruction of U.S. government property worth more than \$750,000, announced United States Attorney Zane David Memeger. The charges arise from the defendant's alleged theft of approximately 60,000 pounds of aluminum helicopter landing pads and other metal objects worth approximately \$760,000 from the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania between August 2010 and February 2011. It is alleged that, on 22 separate occasions during that time frame, the defendant visited a local scrap metal dealer, and exchanged the stolen aluminum landing pads and other metal objects for more than \$50,000 in payments.

It is alleged that, after stealing and causing the destruction of this government property, defendant Christopher M. Cook then used the proceeds he received from the scrap dealer to pay for a variety of personal items including, among others, travel expenses, restaurants and other entertainment, clothing and jewelry, and repairs to his truck.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANT

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE OR YEAR OF BIRTH
Christopher M. Cook	Lakehurst, New Jersey	28

If convicted, the defendant faces a maximum possible sentence of 20 years imprisonment, 3 years of supervised release, mandatory restitution, a \$500,000 fine, and a \$200 special assessment.

The case was investigated by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney John J. Pease.

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
EASTERN DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA
Suite 1250, 615 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106**

**Contact: PATTY HARTMAN
Media Contact
215-861-8525**

¹An Indictment or Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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