

GUILTY PLEA and PLEA AGREEMENT

United States Attorney
Northern District of Georgia

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
ATLANTA DIVISION
CRIMINAL NO. 1:17-CR-209

The United States Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia and the Fraud Section, Criminal Division, United States Department of Justice ("the Government") and Defendant Nebraska McAlpine, enter into this plea agreement as set forth below in Part IV pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(B) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. Nebraska McAlpine, Defendant, having received a copy of the above-numbered Information and having been arraigned, hereby pleads GUILTY to the Information.

I. ADMISSION OF GUILT

1. The Defendant admits that he is pleading guilty because he is in fact guilty of the crime charged in the Information.

II. ACKNOWLEDGMENT & WAIVER OF RIGHTS

2. The Defendant understands that by pleading guilty, he is giving up the right to plead not guilty and the right to be tried by a jury. At a trial, the Defendant would have the right to an attorney, and if the Defendant could not afford an attorney, the Court would appoint one to represent the Defendant at trial and at every stage of the proceedings. During the trial, the Defendant would be presumed innocent and the Government would have the burden of

proving him guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. The Defendant would have the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him. If the Defendant wished, he could testify on his own behalf and present evidence in his defense, and he could subpoena witnesses to testify on his behalf. If, however, the Defendant did not wish to testify, that fact could not be used against him, and the Government could not compel him to incriminate himself. If the Defendant were found guilty after a trial, he would have the right to appeal the conviction.

3. The Defendant understands that by pleading guilty, he is giving up all of these rights and there will not be a trial of any kind.

4. By pleading guilty, Defendant also gives up any and all rights to pursue any affirmative defenses, Fourth Amendment or Fifth Amendment claims, and other pretrial motions that have been filed or could have been filed.

5. The Defendant also understands that he ordinarily would have the right to appeal his sentence and, under some circumstances, to attack the conviction and sentence in post-conviction proceedings. By entering this Plea Agreement, the Defendant may be waiving some or all of those rights to appeal and to collaterally attack his conviction and sentence, as specified below.

6. The Defendant understands that, to plead guilty, he may have to answer, under oath, questions posed to him by the Court concerning the rights that he is giving up and the facts of this case, and the Defendant's answers, if untruthful, may later be used against him in a prosecution for perjury or false statements.

7. The Defendant understands that Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(f) and Federal Rule of Evidence 410 ordinarily limit the admissibility of statements made by a defendant in the course of plea discussions or plea proceedings if a guilty plea is later withdrawn. The Defendant knowingly and voluntarily waives the rights which arise under these rules as to such statements, including the Factual Basis for Guilty Plea.

III. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PENALTIES

8. The Defendant understands that, based on his plea of guilty, he will be subject to the following maximum and mandatory minimum penalties:

As to the sole charge in the Information

- a. Maximum term of imprisonment: 10 years.
- b. Mandatory minimum term of imprisonment: None.
- c. Term of supervised release: 0 year(s) to 3 years.
- d. Maximum fine: \$250,000, due and payable immediately.
- e. Full restitution, due and payable immediately, to all victims of the offense(s) and relevant conduct.
- f. Mandatory special assessment: \$100, due and payable immediately.
- g. Forfeiture of any and all proceeds from the commission of the offense, any and all property used or intended to be used to facilitate the offense, and any property involved in the offense.

9. The Defendant understands that, before imposing sentence in this case, the Court will be required to consider, among other factors, the provisions of the United States Sentencing Guidelines and that, under certain circumstances, the Court has the discretion to depart from those Guidelines. The Defendant further understands that the Court may impose a sentence up to and including the statutory maximum as set forth in this paragraph and that no one can predict his exact sentence at this time.

10. REMOVAL FROM THE UNITED STATES: The Defendant recognizes that pleading guilty may have consequences with respect to his immigration status if he is not a citizen of the United States. Under federal law, a broad range of crimes are removable offenses, including the offense to which the Defendant is pleading guilty. Indeed, because the Defendant is pleading guilty to this offense, removal is presumptively mandatory. Removal and other immigration consequences are the subject of a separate proceeding, however, and the Defendant understands that no one, including his attorney or the District Court, can predict to a certainty the effect of his conviction on his immigration status. The Defendant nevertheless affirms that he wants to plead guilty regardless of any immigration consequences that his plea may entail, even if the consequence is his automatic removal from the United States.

IV. PLEA AGREEMENT

11. The Defendant, his counsel, and the Government, subject to approval by the Court, have agreed upon a negotiated plea in this case, the terms of which are as follows:

No Additional Charges

12. The United States Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia and the Fraud Section, Criminal Division, United States Department of Justice, agree not to bring further criminal charges against the Defendant related to the charges to which he is pleading guilty. The Defendant understands that this provision does not bar prosecution by any other federal, state, or local jurisdiction.

Factual Basis

13. The parties agree that if this case went to trial, the Government would prove by admissible evidence and beyond reasonable doubt the following facts:
- a. The defendant maintained a principal place of residence within the Northern District of Georgia and was employed as a Project Manager for an American defense contractor in Kabul, Afghanistan (the Prime Contractor).
 - b. The defendant and an Afghan executive agreed that in exchange for illicit kickbacks, the defendant would ensure that the Prime Contractor awarded lucrative subcontracts to the executive's companies. The defendant repeatedly told his supervisors that these companies should be awarded "sole source" subcontracts, which

allowed them to supply services to the Prime Contractor without having to competitively bid on them. As a result of the kickback scheme, the Prime Contractor paid over \$1.6 million to the subcontractor to assist with maintaining the Afghanistan Ministry of the Interior Ultra-High Frequency (“UHF”) radio communications system in Kabul, Afghanistan.

- c. The executive agreed to pay kickbacks to the defendant totaling approximately 15% of the value of the subcontracts. In 2015 and 2016, the defendant accepted over \$250,000 in kickbacks from the executive.
- d. The defendant hid these kickbacks from his employer by storing the cash payments in his personal effects and then physically transporting them himself to the United States. The defendant then deposited the majority of these funds into his bank accounts at bank branches in the Atlanta metropolitan area.

Sentencing Guidelines Recommendations

14. Based upon the evidence currently known to the Government, the Government agrees to make the following recommendations and/or to enter into the following stipulations.

Base/Adjusted Offense Level

15. The Government agrees to recommend and the Defendant agrees that:

- a. The applicable offense guideline is Section 2B4.1.
- b. The base offense level under Section 2B4.1(a) is 8.
- c. The amount of value of the bribe was greater than \$250,000, but less than \$550,000, resulting in a 12-level enhancement under Section 2B4.1(b)(1) and Section 2B1.1(b)(1)(G).

Acceptance of Responsibility

16. The Government will recommend that the Defendant receive the two-level adjustment for acceptance of responsibility pursuant to Section 3E1.1 of the Sentencing Guidelines, and the additional one-level adjustment if the offense level is 16 or higher. However, the Government will not be required to recommend acceptance of responsibility if, after entering this Plea Agreement, the Defendant engages in conduct inconsistent with accepting responsibility. Thus, by way of example only, should the Defendant falsely deny or falsely attempt to minimize Defendant's involvement in relevant offense conduct, give conflicting statements about Defendant's involvement, fail to pay the special assessment, fail to meet any of the obligations set forth in the Financial Cooperation Provisions set forth below, or participate in additional criminal conduct, including unlawful personal use of a controlled substance, the Government will not be required to recommend acceptance of responsibility.

**Right to Answer Questions, Correct Misstatements,
and Make Recommendations**

17. The parties reserve the right to inform the Court and the Probation Office of all facts and circumstances regarding the Defendant and this case, and to respond to any questions from the Court and the Probation Office and to any misstatements of fact or law. Except as expressly stated elsewhere in this Plea Agreement, the parties also reserve the right to make recommendations regarding application of the Sentencing Guidelines. The parties understand, acknowledge, and agree that there are no agreements between the parties with respect to any Sentencing Guidelines issues other than those specifically listed.

Right to Modify Recommendations

18. With regard to the Government's recommendation as to any specific application of the Sentencing Guidelines as set forth elsewhere in this Plea Agreement, the Defendant understands and agrees that, should the Government obtain or receive additional evidence concerning the facts underlying any such recommendation, the Government will bring that evidence to the attention of the Court and the Probation Office. In addition, if the additional evidence is sufficient to support a finding of a different application of the Guidelines, the Government will not be bound to make the recommendation set forth elsewhere in this Plea Agreement, and the failure to do so will not constitute a violation of this Plea Agreement.

Cooperation

General Requirements

19. The Defendant agrees to cooperate truthfully and completely with the Government, including being debriefed and providing truthful testimony at any proceeding resulting from or related to Defendant's cooperation. Defendant agrees to so cooperate in any investigation or proceeding as requested by the Government. Defendant agrees that Defendant's cooperation shall include, but not be limited to:

- a. producing all records, whether written, recorded, electronic, or machine readable, in his actual or constructive possession, custody, or control, of evidentiary value or requested by attorneys and agents of the Government;
- b. making himself available for interviews, not at the expense of the Government if he is on bond, upon the request of attorneys and agents of the Government;
- c. responding fully and truthfully to all inquiries of the Government in connection with any investigation or proceeding, without falsely implicating any person or intentionally withholding any information, subject to the penalties of making false statements (18 U.S.C. § 1001), obstruction of justice (18 U.S.C. § 1503), and related offenses; and

- d. when called upon to do so by the Government in connection with any investigation or proceeding, testifying in grand jury, trial, and other judicial proceedings, fully, truthfully, and under oath, subject to the penalties of perjury (18 U.S.C. § 1621), making false statements or declarations in grand jury or court proceedings (18 U.S.C. § 1623), contempt (18 U.S.C. §§ 401 - 402), obstruction of justice (18 U.S.C. § 1503), and related offenses.

The Defendant understands that the Government alone will determine what forms of cooperation to request from the Defendant, and the Defendant agrees that Defendant will not engage in any investigation that is not specifically authorized by the Government.

Conditional Section 5K/Rule 35 Motion

20. The Government agrees to make the extent of the Defendant's cooperation known to the sentencing court. In addition, if the cooperation is completed before sentencing and the Government determines that such cooperation qualifies as "substantial assistance" pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3553(e) and/or Section 5K1.1 of the Sentencing Guidelines, the Government will file a motion at sentencing recommending a downward departure from the applicable guideline range. If the cooperation is completed after sentencing and the Government determines that such cooperation qualifies as "substantial assistance" pursuant to Rule 35(b) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the Government will file a motion for reduction of sentence. In either case, the Defendant understands

that the determination as to whether Defendant has provided “substantial assistance” rests solely with the Government. Good faith efforts by the Defendant that do not substantially assist in the investigation or prosecution of another person who has committed a crime will not result in either a motion for downward departure or a Rule 35 motion. The Defendant also understands that, should the Government decide to file a motion pursuant to this paragraph, the Government may recommend any specific sentence, and the final decision as to what credit, if any, the Defendant should receive for Defendant’s cooperation will be determined by the Court. If the Defendant fails to cooperate truthfully and completely, or if the Defendant engages in additional criminal conduct or other conduct inconsistent with cooperation, Defendant will not be entitled to any consideration whatsoever pursuant to this paragraph.

Sentencing Recommendations

Judicial Economy

21. Based on the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), the parties agree to recommend that the Defendant receive a one-level downward variance at sentencing. This variance is predicated on the Defendant's expeditiously entered plea of guilty and the resulting conservation of limited judicial and prosecutorial resources.

Financial Cooperation Provisions

Special Assessment

22. The Defendant agrees that he will pay a special assessment in the amount of \$100 by money order or certified check made payable to the Clerk of Court, U.S. District Court, 2211 U.S. Courthouse, 75 Ted Turner Drive SW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303, on the day of sentencing. The Defendant agrees to provide proof of such payment to the undersigned Assistant United States Attorney upon payment thereof.

Fine/Restitution - Terms of Payment

23. The Defendant agrees to pay any fine and/or restitution imposed by the Court to the Clerk of Court for eventual disbursement to the appropriate account and/or victim(s). The Defendant also agrees that the full fine and/or restitution amount shall be considered due and payable immediately. If the Defendant cannot pay the full amount immediately and is placed in custody or under the supervision of the Probation Office at any time, he agrees that the custodial agency and the Probation Office will have the authority to establish payment schedules to ensure payment of the fine and/or restitution. The Defendant understands that this payment schedule represents a minimum obligation and that, should Defendant's financial situation establish that he is able to pay more toward the fine and/or restitution, the Government is entitled to pursue other sources of recovery of the fine and/or restitution. The Defendant further agrees to cooperate fully in efforts to collect the fine and/or restitution obligation by

any legal means the Government deems appropriate. Finally, the Defendant and his counsel agree that the Government may contact the Defendant regarding the collection of any fine and/or restitution without notifying and outside the presence of his counsel.

Financial Disclosure

24. The Defendant agrees that Defendant will not sell, hide, waste, encumber, destroy, or otherwise devalue any such asset worth more than \$1,000 before sentencing, without the prior approval of the Government. The Defendant understands and agrees that Defendant's failure to comply with this provision of the Plea Agreement should result in Defendant receiving no credit for acceptance of responsibility.

25. The Defendant agrees to cooperate fully in the investigation of the amount of restitution and fine; the identification of funds and assets in which he has any legal or equitable interest to be applied toward restitution and/or fine; and the prompt payment of restitution or a fine.

26. The Defendant's cooperation obligations include: (A) fully and truthfully completing the Department of Justice's Financial Statement of Debtor form, and any addenda to said form deemed necessary by the Government, within ten days of the change of plea hearing; (B) submitting to a financial deposition or interview (should the Government deem it necessary) prior to sentencing regarding the subject matter of said form; (C) providing any documentation

within his possession or control requested by the Government regarding his financial condition and that of his household; (D) fully and truthfully answering all questions regarding his past and present financial condition and that of his household in such interview(s); and (E) providing a waiver of his privacy protections to permit the Government to access his credit report and tax information held by the Internal Revenue Service.

27. So long as the Defendant is completely truthful, the Government agrees that anything related by the Defendant during his financial interview or deposition or in the financial forms described above cannot and will not be used against him in the Government's criminal prosecution. However, the Government may use the Defendant's statements to identify and to execute upon assets to be applied to the fine and/or restitution in this case. Further, the Government is completely free to pursue any and all investigative leads derived in any way from the interview(s) / deposition(s) / financial forms, which could result in the acquisition of evidence admissible against the Defendant in subsequent proceedings. If the Defendant subsequently takes a position in any legal proceeding that is inconsistent with the interview(s)/deposition(s)/ financial forms-whether in pleadings, oral argument, witness testimony, documentary evidence, questioning of witnesses, or any other manner-the Government may use the Defendant's interview(s)/deposition(s)/ financial forms, and all evidence obtained directly or indirectly therefrom, in any

responsive pleading and argument and for cross-examination, impeachment, or rebuttal evidence. Further, the Government may also use the Defendant's interview(s)/deposition(s)/financial forms to respond to arguments made or issues raised sua sponte by the Magistrate or District Court.

Recommendations/Stipulations Non-binding

28. The Defendant understands and agrees that the recommendations of the Government incorporated within this Plea Agreement, as well as any stipulations of fact or guideline computations incorporated within this Plea Agreement or otherwise discussed between the parties, are not binding on the Court and that the Court's failure to accept one or more of the recommendations, stipulations, and/or guideline computations will not constitute grounds to withdraw his guilty plea or to claim a breach of this Plea Agreement.

Limited Waiver of Appeal

29. LIMITED WAIVER OF APPEAL: To the maximum extent permitted by federal law, the Defendant voluntarily and expressly waives the right to appeal his conviction and sentence and the right to collaterally attack his conviction and sentence in any post-conviction proceeding (including, but not limited to, motions filed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255) on any ground, except that the Defendant may file a direct appeal of an upward departure or upward variance above the sentencing guideline range as calculated by the District Court. Claims that Defendant's counsel rendered constitutionally ineffective assistance are

excepted from this waiver. The Defendant understands that this Plea Agreement does not limit the Government's right to appeal, but if the Government initiates a direct appeal of the sentence imposed, the Defendant may file a cross-appeal of that same sentence.

Miscellaneous Waivers

FOIA/Privacy Act Waiver

30. The Defendant hereby waives all rights, whether asserted directly or by a representative, to request or receive from any department or agency of the United States any records pertaining to the investigation or prosecution of this case, including, without limitation, any records that may be sought under the Freedom of Information Act, Title 5, United States Code, Section 552, or the Privacy Act of 1974, Title 5, United States Code, Section 552a.

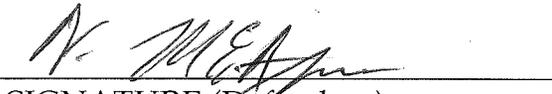
No Other Agreements

31. There are no other agreements, promises, representations, or understandings between the Defendant and the Government.

In Open Court this _____ day of _____, _____.



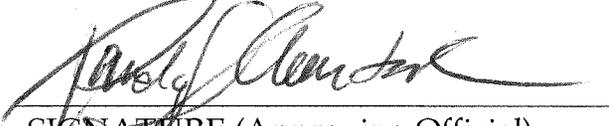
SIGNATURE (Attorney for Defendant)
Jerry Froelich



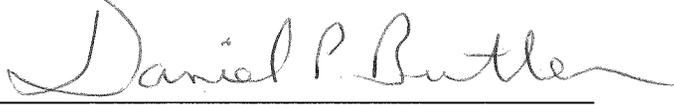
SIGNATURE (Defendant)
Nebraska McAlpine



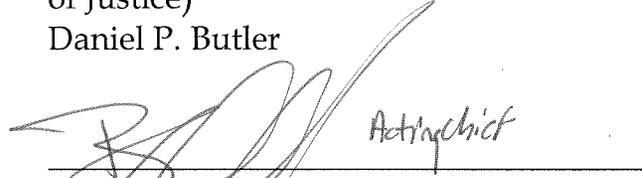
SIGNATURE (Assistant United States Attorney)
Thomas J. Krepp



SIGNATURE (Approving Official)
Randy S. Chartash



SIGNATURE (Trial Attorney, Fraud Section, Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice)
Daniel P. Butler



SIGNATURE (Approving Official)
for Benjamin D. Singer (Deputy Chief, Fraud Section, Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice)

I have read the Information against me and have discussed it with my attorney. I understand the charges and the elements of each charge that the Government would have to prove to convict me at a trial. I have read the foregoing Plea Agreement and have carefully reviewed every part of it with my attorney. I understand the terms and conditions contained in the Plea Agreement, and I voluntarily agree to them. I also have discussed with my attorney the rights I may have to appeal or challenge my conviction and sentence, and I understand that the appeal waiver contained in the Plea Agreement will prevent me, with the narrow exceptions stated, from appealing my conviction and sentence or challenging my conviction and sentence in any post-conviction proceeding. No one has threatened or forced me to plead guilty, and no promises or inducements have been made to me other than those discussed in the Plea Agreement. The discussions between my attorney and the Government toward reaching a negotiated plea in this case took place with my permission. I am fully satisfied with the representation provided to me by my attorney in this case.

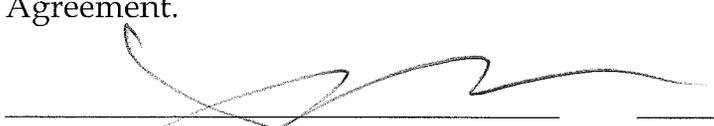


SIGNATURE (Defendant)
Nebraska McAlpine

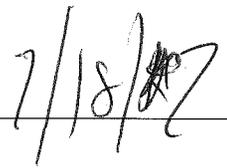
7-18-2017

DATE

I am Nebraska McAlpine's lawyer. I have carefully reviewed the charges and the Plea Agreement with my client. To my knowledge, my client is making an informed and voluntary decision to plead guilty and to enter into the Plea Agreement.



SIGNATURE (Defense Attorney)
Jerry Froelich



DATE

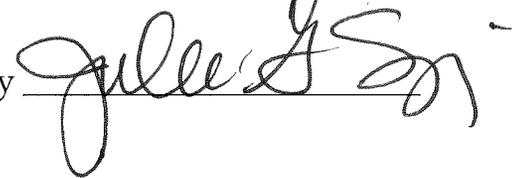
Jerry Froelich

Nebraska McAlpine

_____ State Bar of Georgia Number

Filed in Open Court

This ^{10th} ~~10~~ day of July, 2017

By 

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Statement of Special Assessment Account

This statement reflects your special assessment only. There may be other penalties imposed at sentencing.

ACCOUNT INFORMATION	
CRIMINAL ACTION NO.:	1:17-CR-209
DEFENDANT'S NAME:	NEBRASKA MCALPINE
PAY THIS AMOUNT:	\$100

Instructions:

1. Payment must be made by **certified check** or **money order** payable to:
Clerk of court, U.S. District Court
personal checks will not be accepted
2. Payment must reach the clerk's office within 30 days of the entry of your guilty plea
3. Payment should be sent or hand delivered to:
Clerk, U.S. District Court
2211 U.S. Courthouse
75 Ted Turner Drive S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
(Do Not Send Cash)
4. Include defendant's name on **certified check** or **money order**.
5. Enclose this coupon to insure proper and prompt application of payment.
6. Provide proof of payment to the above-signed AUSA within 30 days of the guilty plea.