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MOTHER AND SON PLEAD GUILTY TO CONSPIRACY TO STEALING GOVERNMENT FUNDS BY ILLEGALLY USING GOVERNMENT FUEL CARDS

Jackson, Miss - Acting U.S. Attorney Stan Harris announced that **CATHY A. JACKSON** and **ANTHONY P. MOORE** of Canton, Mississippi, pleaded guilty today in federal court to conspiring to steal and embezzle government money through their fraudulent use of government fuel cards. According to the criminal information filed in this case, the pair used government fuel cards over 10,000 times during a five year period to steal more than \$645,135.83 in diesel, gasoline and other items at various stores for their personal use or in exchange for cash from others. The criminal information charged the two with conspiring to embezzle, steal, purloin and convert to their own use or the use of another money belonging to the United States having a value of more than \$1,000. **JACKSON** and **MOORE** face a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

The Voyager Fleet Fuel Card Program is a United States Department of Defense program which provides a method for purchasing fuel, parts, and maintenance services for vehicles owned and leased by the United States Department of Defense, including Mississippi National Guard vehicles. Defendant **JACKSON** was the Accountable Official for the Office of the U.S. Property and Fiscal Officer, State of Mississippi, responsible for Voyager Fleet Fuel Cards distributed to the Mississippi National Guard. **JACKSON** was responsible for issuing and maintaining all fuel cards for the Mississippi National Guard, as well as reviewing fuel card charges in order to detect fraud. Defendant **MOORE** is Jackson's son. The two used Voyager Fleet Fuel Cards to steal gasoline for their own use in their personal vehicles and to buy other items for themselves, as well as buying diesel fuel and gasoline to sell to others.

Defendant **JACKSON** attempted to hide their fraudulent activities by selecting cards that had been assigned to deactivated units of the Mississippi National Guard and cards that had been turned in by Mississippi National Guard units. Defendant **JACKSON** also tried to hide their fraudulent use of the cards from her supervisors by not showing them pages from the credit card statements which would have exposed her thefts when she submitted the statements for review to her superior and by rotating which cards the defendants were using to steal the fuel, to ensure the credit limit on each card would not be reached.

Defendant **MOORE** used the fuel cards given to him by his mother, defendant **JACKSON**, to buy gasoline for his own personal vehicle and to sell fuel to others for their vehicles and their storage containers. Defendant **MOORE** kept most of the cash he obtained, providing defendant **JACKSON** with lesser amounts.

United States District Judge Tom S. Lee scheduled sentencing for **JACKSON** and **MOORE** to be held on April 16, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. in Jackson, Mississippi.

"The result of today's plea is a prime example of our partnership and shared dedication with the Department of Justice to root out all those who seek to defraud or steal from the U.S. Army" said Brigadier General Rodney Johnson, the commander of the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command. "People must understand that no matter how deceptive they are in masking their crimes, we will uncover their actions, and help prosecutors bring them to justice."

Acting U.S. Attorney Harris commended the vigilance of the Madison County Sheriff's Department and the investigative efforts of the Special Agents of the United States Army Criminal Investigation Command, Vicksburg Fraud Resident Agency. Harris also praised the cooperation and assistance by the Madison County Sheriff's Office in this case. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mike Hurst.

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