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BENTON MAN SENTENCED ON FEDERAL WIRE FRAUD CHARGES

Defendant stole over \$200,000 from his employer

Shreveport, Louisiana . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced that **JAMES EDWARD TINSLEY**, age 45, of Benton, Louisiana, was sentenced in United States District Court today by U.S. District Judge S. Maurice Hicks, Jr. to spend 24 months in prison for wire fraud. TINSLEY was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$215,650.

A bill of information was filed in March of this year charging TINSLEY with one count of wire fraud. From July 2002 to December 2004, TINSLEY was the Vice-President of Operations and Marketing at JetPac Group, Ltd., a wholesaler and exporter of food products from the United States, Brazil and Argentina to other foreign markets. From on or about December 2003 until December 2004, TINSLEY had authority as an employee and Vice President of JetPac Group, Ltd. to wire transfer bank funds and money to pay for the lawful and usual business transactions of the company to persons and businesses outside the United States. TINSLEY used this authority to unlawfully and without authority send wire transfers of funds and money from the business into accounts outside the United States and then had the money wire

transferred back into the United States to an account in his name to be used for TINSLEY's own personal benefit. The total amount which TINSLEY embezzled was \$215,650.

TINSLEY was ordered to report to the Bureau of Prisons on March 19, 2007 to begin serving his sentence. Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. United States Sentencing Guidelines established by the United States Congress and the United States Sentencing Commission are only used as guidelines by the judge in determining the appropriate sentence. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Shreveport Resident Agency, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert W. Gillespie, Jr.

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