

The Office of Inspector General (OIG), Department of Defense (DoD), announced today that on April 14, 2000, a Federal grand jury in Albuquerque, NM, returned a 6 count indictment against Michael Anderson, owner and operator of Ranger Military Surplus, Moriarty, NM. The Federal grand jury charged Anderson with allegedly submitting two false statements to the Department of Defense, impersonation of an officer, and a convicted felon in possession of firearms and ammunition.

The indictment was the result of an investigation that disclosed Anderson and his company were debarred by the Defense Logistics Agency in August of 1998. The debarments excluded Anderson and his company from purchasing surplus and foreign excess personal property from the Federal Government for three years. In November of 1998, Anderson went to the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO), located on Holloman Air Force Base (AFB), Alamogordo, NM, and fraudulently obtained a new bidder identification number by using the alias "Mikael Anderson" doing business as "Ranger Military Equipment Sales". In doing so, Anderson falsely certified in writing that he was not debarred. Further, Anderson was able to circumvent the debarment and purchase surplus property from the DRMO. In February 1999, Anderson, using his alias and fraudulent bidder identification number, purchased surplus property from the DRMO at Holloman AFB, NM. Anderson again certified in writing he was not debarred.

In November of 1998 Anderson attempted to enter Kirtland AFB, Albuquerque, NM, to attend a sale at the DRMO. Anderson was stopped by the Kirtland AFB Security Police and asked to produce proper military identification. Anderson was driving a military style 2 1/2-ton cargo truck and was wearing an Urban Battle Dress uniform with the rank of Captain (O-3) insignia attached to his collars and cap. A "U.S. MARINES" nametape was sewn onto his uniform just above the right breast pocket. When the Security Police requested proper military identification, Anderson produced a New Mexico State driver's license and a business card which read "Ranger Military Supply, Captain Michael Anderson, United States Marine Corps".

Investigation also disclosed that Anderson has previously been convicted on six separate occasions for felony violations in the states of Texas, Arizona, and Nevada.

If convicted on all counts Anderson faces a maximum sentence of 40 years in prison and fines totaling \$36,000.