

Hills man among 10 charged by feds

(AP) — Ten people, including a Farmington Hills resident, face charges of plotting to sell defective ammunition parts, altering test results and bribing federal inspectors.

Federal prosecutors say they were part of a \$40 million fraud by a military contractor. "Altering test results is very crucial because it could jeopardize the lives of fighting men and women serving in the U.S. government," said U.S. Attorney Robert Genzman, after a 33-count indictment was unsealed last week in Tampa, Fla.

Wallace H. Nutting of Biddleford Pool, Me., a retired general with an impressive military career, was among eight top officers of now-closed Sooner Defense of Florida

Inc. charged. The other two were government workers who monitored Defense Department contracts with the Lakeland-based company.

Also charged were John C. Bradford, 60, of Wixom, Sooner operations director, and his 35-year-old son, Steven C. Bradford, of Farmington Hills, operations vice president.

"I intend to vigorously contest the charges against me," said Nutting, 63. "I have spent over 40 years of honorable service to my country in the United States Army."

ALL 10 WERE charged with conspiracy. They also were accused of various counts of submitting false claims, wire fraud,

money laundering, making false statements, bribery, illegal wiretapping and obstruction of a Defense Department investigation.

The munitions included fuse assemblies for the 25mm cannon shells used in the main weapons on the Army's Bradley Fighting Vehicle and the Marine Corps' Light Armored Vehicle, as well as fuses for Navy artillery shells.

During military tests there were two accidental explosions of munitions destined for Marine vehicles. There were no injuries, Genzman said, adding that none of the parts was shipped to American military personnel in Saudi Arabia during the Persian Gulf War.

Genzman said the probe, which ran from 1982 through spring 1991, was triggered by a "whistle-

blower" from Sooner. The company employed 600 people at its plant east of Tampa before it closed in August 1988.

Investigators called it a "sophisticated financial scheme" that included fake data and claims, the manufacture of military hardware that didn't meet specifications, cheating on Defense Department testing to substitute shoddy or altered munitions, destruction of records, inflated costs and diversion of funds into insider loans and exorbitant salaries.

They were accused of offering bribes, women for sex, vacations, entertainment to lure contractors and derail investigations and of using harassment and intimidation to prevent leaks.

on the agenda

Below are highlights from the agendas of government meetings this week. All meetings are open to the public.

Farmington City Council
Council chambers
23600 Liberty
8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 4

Reports on Leeland Street parking, purchasing a new patrol vehicle, community development block grant projects and a progress report on the sled hill are all on the agenda. Also to be considered: correspondence about flooding in the Bel Aire subdivision; a resolution from the Tri-county Conference of Mayors on the location of Tiger Stadium; and financial reports from the 47th District Court, the city's general fund and water and sewer fund.

Farmington Hills Zoning Board of Appeals
City Hall
31555 11 Mile Road
7:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 4

This special meeting of the ZBA addresses a request for a 10-foot variance to the city's green belt requirement for a parcel at 30000 Orchard Lake Road. The applicant is Jared Schubiner and the owner Sandra Schubiner.

Farmington Board of Education

The regular meeting of the school board has been cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 19, at 8 p.m.

Downtown Development Authority
Farmington City Hall
23600 Liberty
8 a.m., Wednesday, Nov. 6

On the agenda is a report on Phase IV of downtown streetscape improvements, a report on Midnight Madness promotion, consideration of a rent increase and other routine business.

Town Hall Meeting
Farmington Public Schools
Power Middle School
cafeteria
7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 6

Parents and community members are invited to come and discuss the future of education in the school district. On the agenda:

- Ideas for downsizing with, increasing students and decreasing dollars
- What is the measure of a quality school district?
- What expectations do you have of high school graduates?
- What should "restructuring of education" mean to Farmington schools?

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Parenting seminar set

A parenting seminar this week will teach parents of middle school students how to let go of guilt, to challenge their children and how important caring can be in raising their children.

Featuring nationally known motivational speaker Rolfe Carawan, the seminar is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 7, at East Middle School. The school is on the east side of Middlebelt Road, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile in Farmington Hills.

Parents of middle school children and fifth graders are encouraged to attend.

CARAWAN is a certified teacher,

counselor and coach and is recognized for his work with juveniles and gangs in San Diego, California and for his humorous approach to dealing with problems. In addition to the program he is doing for Farmington-area parents, other programs address teachers, student leaders, and the various concerns facing young people.

Funding for the program is through the Farmington Public Schools and federal grant money.

Carawan will also visit East and Duncel middle schools on Nov. 6 to meet with staff and students. For more information, call East Middle School at 489-3601.

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Workshop: Make your own Mr. & Mrs. Santa Bear
Who can resist a lovable bear especially when they're dressed up like Mr. & Mrs. Santa? We'll show you how to make one or both on Nov. 9th & 10th. (You want a pair for your martini!)

On sale Sunday, Nov. 3 thru Saturday, Nov. 9, 1991

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Mon-Sat 9:30-6
Sunday 11-6