

U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

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NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
Alexandria, Virginia
January 16, 2003**

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announces that a former Department of Defense employee, Kathleen M. Ciccotelli-Ward, 44, of Alexandria, Virginia, was sentenced today in United States District Court in Alexandria, by the Honorable Leonie M. Brinkema, for theft of government property totaling over \$30,000 resulting from Ms. Ciccotelli-Ward's misuse of a government charge card. Ms. Ciccotelli-Ward was sentenced to three years of supervised probation which includes six months of home confinement with electronic monitoring, and ordered to make full restitution to the U.S. government for the items she stole.

Ms. Ciccotelli-Ward was the Deputy Director for the Pentagon's Graphics and Presentation Division, Real Estate and Facilities Division, Washington Headquarters Services, which produced graphics and artwork for presentations and briefings at the Pentagon. She used her government charge card to purchase items which she then stole and converted to her own use. These items included audio and video equipment, CD players, DVD players, computer equipment, cameras, power tools and a refrigerator. Ciccotelli-Ward also used the government credit card to buy audio and video equipment and a refrigerator for the personal use of her supervisor at the Pentagon. Additionally, in order to conceal some of these thefts from an audit conducted in July

2002 by the Department of Defense Inspector General, Ms. Ciccotelli-Ward asked a DoD contractor to purchase items identical to those which she had stolen and to cause these items to be placed in the DoD inventory.

This case is part of a continuing effort to investigate government charge card fraud and abuse within the Department of Defense. The case was investigated by the United States Attorney's Office and the Inspector General, Department of Defense, Defense Criminal Investigative Service. This case was presented by Assistant United States Attorney Robert C. Erickson.