

# Prosecutions Going Up For War Zone Crime

BY PAULINE JELINEK  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Marine in Iraq sent home \$43,000 in stolen cash by hiding it in a footlocker among American flags. A soldier shipped thousands more concealed in a toy stuffed animal. An embassy employee tricked the State Department into wiring \$240,000 into his foreign bank account.

As the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan wind down, the number of people indicted and convicted by the U.S. for bribery, theft and other reconstruction-related crimes in both countries is rapidly rising, according to two government reports released Sunday.

"This is a boom industry for us," Stuart Bowen, the special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction, said in an interview.

"Investigators and auditors had a productive quarter," said a report on the theft of Afghanistan aid by Steven Trent, who

holds the same job for Afghanistan. His report covered August through October.

In the past 13 months U.S. investigators in Iraq secured the indictments of 22 people for alleged aid-related offenses, bringing to 69 the total since the SIGIR office was created in 2004. Convictions stand at 57. Several hundred more suspects are under scrutiny in 102 open investigations and those numbers are expected to climb.

The rise in caseloads derives partly from spinoff investigations, where suspects facing prosecution lead investigators to other suspects, said Jon Novak, SIGIR's assistant inspector general for investigations.

"More and more people are ratting out their associates," he said, turning in conspirators who helped launder money after it was stolen, others who were aware of it and others implicated in the crimes.

As investigators gain experience, they're receiving better information from a growing network of sources in Iraq, said

Dan Willkens, Novak's deputy. Development of an automated data-mining system for investigations has helped, he said, as did a decision two years ago to speed prosecutions by hiring three former assistant U.S. attorneys and detailing them to the Department of Justice.

At the inspector general's office for Afghan reconstruction, created in 2008, officials report only nine indictments and seven convictions so far. They say they're trying to ramp up after years of upheaval and charges the office was mismanaged. Trent was named acting inspector general after his predecessor left in August and is the third person to hold the job.

Still, Trent reported that during the last quarter, an investigation initiated by his office netted the largest bribery case in Afghanistan's 10-year war. A former Army Reserve captain, Sidharth "Tony" Handa of Charlotte, N.C., was convicted, sentenced to prison and fined for soliciting \$1.3 million in bribes from contractors working on

reconstruction projects. Most crimes uncovered by U.S. investigators in the two war zones include bribery, kickbacks and theft, inspired in part by the deep and pervasive cultures of corruption indigenous to the countries themselves.

Several U.S. government employees, who received kickbacks for steering contracts to local conspirators and providing inside information to people competing for contracts. A former army sergeant, who was not identified, is charged with pocketing more than \$12,000 in cash that a contractor never picked up after the money was allegedly stolen by another army sergeant and mailed to California inside a stuffed animal.

Jordanian national and U.S. Embassy employee Osama Esam Saleem Ayesh, who was convicted in April for stealing nearly \$240,000 intended to cover shipping and customs charges the State Department incurs when it moves household goods of its

employees. The money wound up in Ayesh's bank in Jordan.

Money stolen from reconstruction projects also has been shipped off of U.S. battlefields tucked into letters home and stuffed in a military vest. Tens of thousands of dollars were once sewn into a Santa Claus suit.

Prosecutors have retrieved some of the money. More than \$83 million will be returned to the U.S. from Iraq cases completed in the budget year that ended Sept. 30, bringing the total recovered over the last seven years to nearly \$155 million, Bowen's office said.

As well as stolen cash, the total includes court-ordered restitution, fines and proceeds from the sale of merchandise seized from those convicted, including Rolex watches, luxury cars, plasma TVs and houses.

Prosecutions by Trent's office recovered \$51 million over the past year, his report said.

## OBITUARIES

### Lola Smith

CROFTON, Neb. — Lola M. Smith, age 91 of Crofton, Nebraska, died on Saturday, October 29, 2011 at the Good Samaritan Center in Bloomfield, Nebraska.

Funeral Services will be on Wednesday, November 2, 2011 at 10:30 a.m. at the Wintz Funeral Home in Crofton with Rev. Les Parmenter officiating. Burial will be in the Crofton City Cemetery.

Visitation will be on Monday from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with a Prayer Service at 7:00 p.m. at the Wintz Funeral Home. Visitation will begin one hour prior to services on Tuesday at the Funeral Home.

To send online condolences, or to view the video tribute, please visit [www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com).

Pallbearers will be Kevin Smith, Tony Goeden, Duane Schieffer, Jonathan Grimm, Kip Smith and Kelly Smith. Honorary pallbearers will be Samantha, Whitney, Derek and Amanda Goeden, Quinn, Karley and Jack Schieffer, Alexander and Jacob Grimm.

Lola M. Smith was born January 10, 1920 in the rural Addison



Smith

community to Robert W. Stewart and Hilda (Olson) Stewart. She attended the rural Addison School District # 38 near their home. Graduation was from Normal

Training at Bloomfield High School with the class of 1937. She taught school for five years at Dolphin, New Home and Swede School. Lola and Raymond T. Smith were married December 25, 1941 at Crofton, NE and were blessed with two children, Roger Allen and Ruth Ann. Returning to teaching in 1957, she spent five years at the West Blyville and New Home districts. In 1962 she joined the faculty at the Crofton Elementary School. In 1970 she graduated from Yankton College and eventually retired in 1987 after 35 years in the classroom.

Raymond and Lola farmed in the Crofton area and then operated the Lindy Feed Store and Trucking Service in Lindy for 20 years. In the fall of 1982 they moved to Crofton. As a member of the United Church of Christ, she served as Sunday School

Superintendent, later as a Sunday School teacher and a member of the Ladies Aid. She established the memorial committee and served as its chairman. She was the Church Council secretary for thirty years. Accompanied by her husband Raymond, she was Grand Marshal of the 1990 Homecoming Parade in Crofton.

As an active member of the Crofton Senior Citizens, she served as an officer for several years and made the monthly birthday calendar for over ten years. She was a member of the Delta Kappa Gamma for many years. She enjoyed making church banners, calligraphy and personal cards. If you knew her, you probably received one of her handmade rickrack bird cards.

Lola moved to the Sunset View Assisted Living in Bloomfield in January of 2006.

In October 2008, she moved to the Good Samaritan Center. On October 29, 2011, she passed away peacefully surrounded by family.

Survivors include her son Roger and wife Diane of Bloomfield and daughter Ruth Ann and husband Leon K. Grimm of Crofton. Four grandchildren:

Kevin & Karla Smith of Bloomfield; Stacey & Tony Goeden of Wausa; Ginger & Duane Schieffer of Fordyce and Jonathan & Trudy Grimm of Norfolk. Eleven great-grandchildren: Kip & Kelly Smith, Bloomfield; Samantha Goeden of Norfolk; Whitney Goeden of Omaha; Derek & Amanda Goeden of Wausa; Quinn, Karley & Jack Schieffer of Fordyce and Alexander & Jacob Grimm of Norfolk. Sisters: Evelyn Zimmerman, Yankton, SD and Lucille Engbretson, Council Bluffs IA. Brothers: Vern & Eloise Stewart of Yankton, SD and Richard & Eileen Stewart of Crofton.

She was preceded in death by her husband Raymond on September 8, 2001 at the age of 81, her parents Robert and Hilda Stewart and two great-granddaughters, Anna and Grace Schieffer.

Yankton Press & Dakotan  
October 31, 2011



Hartington \* Coleridge \* Crofton  
203 W. Franklin, PO Box 505  
Hartington, Nebraska 68739

### Iden 'Buddy' Myers

PUKWANA — Funeral services for Iden "Buddy" Myers, 83, of Pukwana, SD will be Monday, October 31, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. at the United Church of Christ in Chamberlain with burial in the Pukwana City Cemetery at Pukwana, SD.



Myers

Visitation will be Sunday beginning at 5:00 p.m. with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m. at the United Church of Christ in Chamberlain.

Iden C. Myers was born October 21, 1928 on the family farm near Kimball, SD to Iden B. and Gladys (Tulich) Myers. Buddy, as he was known by everyone, attended the Swanson Country grade school in Cleveland Township and Pukwana High School where he graduated in 1946. On November 25, 1950, Buddy was united in marriage to Joan Weiland. They farmed north of Pukwana for 42 years before retiring and moving into Pukwana in 1992. For many years Buddy traveled the United States showing Appaloosa horses for his dad winning many showmanship honors. Buddy had a hay moving business for many years which allowed him the opportunity to do what he enjoyed most, visit with people. He loved watching races whether it be cars or lawnmowers and if at all possible he would not miss a race. Buddy had horses and cows that we would tend to every day at the farm. He did not look at them as a job but more as a hobby he loved. He enjoyed playing cards. Buddy loved to follow his children and grandchildren to all their sporting events which always ended with a big "YEE-HAW!"

Buddy passed away on October 27, 2011 at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls at the age of 83 years.

Survivors include the love of his life his wife Joan of Pukwana; his two sons Doug Myers and wife Cathy of Pukwana, Gary Myers of Pukwana; his two daughters Glenda Bohlmann of Menno, Cheryl Liddeke and Wade Greenwood of Mitchell; 13

grandchildren; 12 great grandchildren; 2 step great grandchildren; two brothers Lowell Myers and wife Wilda of Pukwana, Wayne Myers and wife Herbie of Winner; a sister Alta Mae Ramey and husband Bob of Pukwana; many nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his mother, father, step-mother, sister, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, and nephew.

In lieu of flowers, make donations to the American Diabetes Foundation.

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### C. Fennet Swanson

MISSION HILL — C. Fennet Swanson, 81 of Mission Hill died unexpectedly Friday, Oct. 28, 2011, at his residence.

Arrangements are pending under the care of Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton.

HONORING THEIR MEMORY  
Our Thoughts And Prayers Are With Them  
Our care and concern does not end with the funeral service. This week we remember with family and friends the anniversary of the deaths of:

Archie Ireland  
who passed away on  
November 1, 2010

This remembrance is brought to you free of charge. If you have a loved one you would like remembered, contact us at Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory.

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[www.opsahlkostelfuneralhome.com](http://www.opsahlkostelfuneralhome.com)

### George Keller

WAKONDA — George J. Keller, 83 of Wakonda and formerly of Yankton died Sunday, Oct. 30, 2011, at the Wakonda Heritage Manor, Wakonda.

Arrangements are pending under the care of Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crematory, Yankton.

### Marjorie Kalstad

ELK POINT — Marjorie F. Kalstad, 95, of Elk Point died Sunday, Oct. 30, 2011, at Prairie Estates Care Center, Elk Point.

Funeral arrangements are

pending with Kober Funeral Home, Elk Point.

### Donald Kaberna

WAGNER — Donald A. Kaberna, 68 of Wagner died unexpectedly Saturday, Oct. 29, 2011, at Avera McKennan Hospital, Sioux Falls.

His funeral service is at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at St. John Lutheran Church, Wagner, with burial in the ZCJB Cemetery, rural Wagner.

Visitation is 4-6 p.m. Tuesday at Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home, Wagner.

Guest Check  
DAILY SPECIALS  
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Join the Fun At The Annual TRICK OR TREAT  
Mon., Oct. 31st • 6:30-7:30pm  
Avera 5th grade and younger welcome.  
Yankton Care Center  
1212 W. 8th  
There will be a haunted house, lots of games and plenty of treats.

### Australian Court Ends Qantas Union Strikes

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Qantas Airways could begin returning its grounded fleet to the skies as early as Monday after an Australian court intervened in a bitter labor dispute by ending strikes and cancelling a staff lock out.

The arbitration court ruling Monday is a major victory in the airline's battle with unions whose rolling strikes have forced cancellation of 600 flights in recent months, disrupted the travel for 70,000 passengers and cost Qantas 70 million Australian dollars (\$75 million).

But the surprise grounding of all 108 planes on Saturday, at a cost of \$20 million a day, has hurt the Australian flagship's reputation among the tens of thousand of passengers who have been stranded around the world.

"We will be getting our aircraft back up in the air as soon as we possibly can," CEO Alan Joyce said in a statement within an hour of his court victory 2 a.m. Monday.

A limited flight schedule could begin Monday afternoon with the approval of aviation regulators, he said.

### Crews Suspend Rescue Efforts At Elevator

ATCHISON, Kan. (AP) — Crews suspended their search Sunday for three people missing after a thunderous explosion at a Kansas grain elevator killed three workers and hospitalized two others with severe burns.

The blast, which shook the ground so hard that it was felt into neighboring Missouri, is a harrowing reminder of the dangers workers face inside elevators brimming with highly combustible grain dust at the end of the harvest season.

The explosion Saturday night at the elevator in Atchison, about 50 miles northwest of Kansas City, sent an orange fireball into the night sky, shot off a chunk of the grain distribution building directly above the elevator and blew a large hole in the side of the one of its concrete silos.

Officials with Bartlett Grain Co., which owns and operates the elevator, decided to temporarily halt the search for the three missing people — one worker and two grain inspectors — because it was unsafe to be inside the facility, said Atchison City Manager Trey Cocking. Smoke could still be seen billowing from the top, and officials were fearful the building could fall on top of rescue crews.

### Surveys Question GOP Presidential Contenders

WASHINGTON (AP) — Key proposals from the Republican presidential candidates might make for good campaign fodder. But independent analyses raise serious questions about those plans and their ability to cure the nation's ills in two vital areas, the economy and housing.

Consider proposed cuts in taxes and regulation, which nearly every GOP candidate is pushing in the name of creating jobs. The initiatives seem to ignore surveys in which employers cite far bigger impediments to increased hiring, chiefly slack consumer demand.

"Republicans favor tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations, but these had no stimulative effect during the George W. Bush administration, and there is no reason to believe that more of them will have any today," writes Bruce Bartlett. He's an economist who worked for Republican congressmen and in the administrations of Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush.

Trick or Treat in Downtown Yankton  
Monday, Oct. 31st  
From 3-5pm at participating businesses throughout Downtown Yankton.  
For more information go to [www.historicdowntownyankton.com](http://www.historicdowntownyankton.com)  
Trick or treat in the daylight!  
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Even a princess occasionally chooses to get dirty.



There's a good reason why you didn't always play 'dress up' with your friends on Saturdays. His name was Dad. With him, even fishing was fun. And while you've idolized Dad your entire life, you'll want to celebrate these times after his death.

A meaningful funeral allows you to grieve and say goodbye, as well as remember and laugh. It's a significant celebration that honors Dad. One that in many ways, is also for you.

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