

Pentagate exposed as Weld and Hudson's dirtiest sting

by Our Special Correspondent

Just as this magazine charged in a widely circulated supplement in late June, the Pentagate scandal has now been publicly exposed as one of the sleaziest unconstitutional "sting" operations ever attempted by the "permanent government" apparatus housed in the Justice Department and FBI.

On July 9, 1988, the *Washington Post* revealed the identity and background of the government's original "source" on Pentagon contract abuses that triggered a two-year secret spy-and-entrapment effort against the nation's military command and major defense industries. That probe, launched in September 1986 within days of William F. Weld's confirmation as head of the Justice Department's Criminal Division, culminated on June 14, 1988, when hundreds of FBI and Naval Investigative Services agents raided offices at the Pentagon and scores of major defense companies and their consultants around the country.

According to the *Post*, the government's original Pentagate "confidential informant" was John P. Marlowe, a retired career military officer who set up a small defense consulting firm, Tri-Tech, in the mid-1980s following his retirement from the U.S. Marine Corps. In March 1985, Marlowe was convicted in Arlington, Virginia Circuit Court of two counts of child molesting. Reported the *Post*, "Marlowe, 45, is serving a six year sentence at a Virginia state prison for indecent exposure and aggravated sexual battery. He was convicted . . . of twice luring a 9-year-old girl and a 10-year-old girl to a basement where he exposed himself to each separately and asked them to touch his genitals."

Though sentenced to six years in state prison, Marlowe never began serving that sentence until July 29, 1987—nearly a year after he was set up by the Justice Department to run a series of sting operations against defense industry consultants and Pentagon employees. Apparently, federal prosecutors promised Marlowe that if he would secretly tape-record

conversations with a number of Pentagon consultants, they would intercede to minimize his jail time. On July 14, 1988, less than 12 months after Marlowe entered jail to begin serving his six-year sentence, a parole board was scheduled to approve his release from jail.

According to an affidavit filed on June 10, 1988 in the U.S. District Court in Dallas, Texas seeking court authorization for search warrants against a string of Texas-based defense companies, it was the confidential informant's "consensually recorded conversations with several individuals" that enabled the Justice Department to obtain wiretap orders and additional electronic surveillance authorization against William Parkin, Melvyn Paisley, Thomas Muldoon, Mark Saunders, Donald Illeman, Fred Lackner, Jim Rapinac, and Charles Gardner.

And so began Pentagate—apparently.

Henry Hudson's pederast brigade?

What the *Washington Post* glaringly failed to mention in its Pentagate informant "scoop" was the fact that at the time of Marlowe's arrest and conviction, the county prosecutor in Arlington, Virginia was Henry Hudson—the same Hudson who became the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia in April 1986, and who has been running the Pentagate probe from its inception. Long known as a "smut buster," who threw significant prosecutorial resources into pornography and prostitution cases, Hudson became the chairman in the mid-1980s of the Reagan administration's National Commission on Pornography.

The commission issued its 2,000-page final report on July 8, 1986. A defensive Hudson, aware of the furor that the report's findings provoked among the nation's civil libertarian community, told *Legal Times* in a July 7, 1986 interview that "contrary to popular belief, this wasn't a bunch of people

sitting around giggling and looking at dirty books. It was strictly a scientific study primarily focused on the relationship between certain types of obscenity and certain types of anti-social behavior.”

Among the commissioners who collaborated with Hudson on the study was Dr. Park Elliot Dietz, a forensic psychiatrist and senior adviser to the FBI training academy at Quantico, Virginia.

Hudson’s co-chairman and apparent political sponsor was Tex Lezar, a former aide to *National Review* publisher William F. Buckley, Jr. who held a top post in the Reagan Justice Department until he left government in 1984 to return to private law practice in Dallas, Texas. Lezar’s wife, Merrie Spaeth, was a Carter-era special assistant to FBI director William Webster. She went on to be a special assistant to President Reagan, in charge of White House media relations.

While Hudson, Dietz, Lezar, and the other commissioners were fending off criticisms of their study, apparently, in at least one case, Hudson’s “scientific method” led him to sponsor an undercover FBI “sting” agent who was subsequently indicted on 14 separate counts of sodomy—all carried out while he was working “undercover” for Hudson and the FBI. That “sting” operative, John A. Vitullo, was nabbed by Fairfax, Virginia police on Nov. 5, 1987 when he approached an undercover officer and offered to pay for sex with young boys. Vitullo reportedly boasted to the undercover policeman that he maintained a large collection of child pornography and that he had two computers at home that he used to maintain contact with a network of people who engaged in sex with juveniles.

Were Vitullo and Marlowe both part of a stable of pederasts maintained by the government as informants and blackmail operators?

In the late 1970s, another pederast, James Brewer, helped the FBI to launch Abscam, the original “sting” operation that sought to catch members of the U.S. Congress in bribes and insider favors. Brewer, while working for the FBI under the Federal Witness Protection Program, was allegedly a member of the North American Man/Boy Love Association, NAMBLA, a crime syndicate believed to be responsible for a nationwide kidnaping ring targeting young boys. According to several sources, when William Weld became U.S. Attorney in Boston in the early 1980s, he had Brewer relocated to his jurisdiction to draw upon his services in targeting local New England political machines.

It stretches the imagination to believe that the Justice Department’s most prominent “sting” operations, Abscam and Pentagate, were just *coincidentally* launched by pederasts, both desperate to avoid pending prison terms.

Trial by leak?

While Henry Hudson was highly critical of Federal District Court Judge John B. Tolle of Dallas for his unsealing of the affidavit in support of the Texas search warrants (every other federal judge kept the affidavits under seal and out of

the reach of defense attorneys and the press), Hudson has become embroiled in a major controversy over the continuing pattern of grand jury leaks to the media. The effect of these leaks has been to keep the Pentagate scandal on the front pages of the national press.

On June 28, attorney Robert Plotkin from the lawfirm of Laxalt, Washington, Perito and DuBuc, representing one of the major targets of the Pentagate probe, former Assistant Secretary of the Navy Melvyn Paisley, filed a harshly worded protest with Henry Hudson, charging that the government investigators themselves violated a string of federal laws prohibiting grand jury leaks and other illegal forms of disclosure.

“We are writing to protest the almost daily disclosure of secret investigative information that subjects our clients to trial by innuendo and rumor before this situation has even been presented to or considered for final action by the Grand Jury,” charged Plotkin.

“These improper disclosures have gone beyond detailed descriptions of documents sought in search warrants. They include the *ex parte* allegations of investigators made to support applications for search warrants, statements purportedly made to law enforcement officials by persons who are ‘cooperating’ with the investigation, and descriptions of conversations that allegedly were overheard and transactions allegedly videotaped in the course of electronic surveillance. These are only several examples of the rampant release of confidential data. . . .

“It is outrageous that, in an investigation described by anonymous law enforcement sources as relating to the improper disclosure of confidential information, the investigators themselves have leaked legally protected information in pursuit of their own self-interests.”

On July 8, sixteen attorneys representing a number of the Pentagate grand jury targets, filed a joint letter with Michael Shaheen, head of the Justice Department’s inhouse watchdog agency, the Office of Professional Responsibility, demanding an investigation into the continuing pattern of government trial-by-leaks.

Clearly feeling the heat, Henry Hudson himself sought out Shaheen’s office to probe the source of an especially embarrassing leak, in which NBC Nightly News reporter James Polk obtained a tape of one of the government’s authorized wiretaps and played it on nationwide TV.

The incident may spark a subplot, a conflict between Hudson and FBI Associate Director Oliver Revell, recently of Irangate fame. Revell told the *Washington Times* in late June that Hudson was behaving like a Hollywood movie star and potentially mishandling the public relations dimension of the Pentagon scandal. Hudson’s call for a Shaheen probe of the NBC leak may be a countermove by the Alexandria prosecutor. Since the time of the original Abscam “stings,” Revell has been notorious as “Mr. NBC,” personally providing that network’s investigative reporters with exclusive coverage of every major FBI-DoJ criminal case.