



# NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Texas

---

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

DATE: April 12, 2004

*Contact: Duncan Woodford*

*Public Information Officer  
(409) 839-2538*

## **BEAUMONT MAN ADMITS STEALING MILITARY COMPUTERS**

(Beaumont, Texas) A 23-year-old Beaumont man has admitted to stealing military computers during U.S. Army deployments at the Port of Beaumont. **DAVID LAYNE FELLS, JR.**, pleaded guilty today to an indictment charging him with Theft of Government Property following a joint investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the military and a civilian contractor.

According to information prosecutors presented in court, FELLS was a civilian employee of a private firm during military deployments out of the Port of Beaumont. An internal investigation began in March, 2003 when two laptop computers belonging to the 842nd Transportation Battalion, Military Traffic Management Command (MTMC), United States Army were reported missing. While neither computer held classified information, one computer contained schematics software used for loading cargo on vessels moored in the Port of Beaumont. Fells admitted he stole the computers, a Sony and a Panasonic, and then sold them over the internet.

**Matthew D. Orwig, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas, stated, "The Port of Beaumont is instrumental in the deployment of our troops and this office will do everything necessary to protect**

--more--

**FELLS Plea  
April 12, 2004  
Page 2**

**them and their equipment while they are in the Eastern District of Texas. We applaud the coordinated effort of the FBI , the military and the civilian contractor in bringing this matter to justice."**

Fells faces a maximum of ten years in prison and a fine of \$250,000. Judge Howell Cobb has not set a sentencing date.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Randall Fluke is prosecuting the case.

*###*