

-The alleged mastermind of a years-long bribes for contracts scheme at Red River Army Depot pleaded not guilty Thursday to charges of conspiracy and bribery in a Texarkana federal court.

Jimmy Scarbrough, 69, of Hooks, Texas, was Equipment Mechanic Supervisor at RRAD from November 2001 until May 2019, according to a criminal complaint and an indictment filed in the Texarkana Division of the Eastern District of Texas. Scarbrough's position allegedly allowed him to take advantage of the Government Purchase Card, or GPC, process for years.

Scarbrough appeared for arraignment Thursday morning before U.S. Magistrate Judge Caroline Craven on charges of conspiracy to defraud the United States, two counts of bribery and conspiracy to launder monetary instruments. Texarkana lawyer Matt Keil entered pleas of not guilty to all charges on Scarbrough's behalf. Scarbrough is also represented by Texarkana lawyer Erin Keil.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jonathan Hornok outlined the government's intent to seek Scarbrough's forfeiture of approximately \$311,000 in U.S. currency and several classic cars Scarbrough allegedly purchased and restored using bribe money including a 1951 Ford F-1 truck, a 1932 Ford Coupe and a 1936 Ford Tudor.

Hornok noted that if convicted of bribery, Scarbrough will be barred from holding an office in a position of trust or authority with the government.

Craven scheduled Scarbrough for a jury trial in late January before U.S. District Judge Robert Schroeder III. Scarbrough will remain free while his case proceeds on an unsecured \$20,000 appearance bond set for him by Craven at an initial appearance on the criminal complaint in May.

Three other men have pleaded guilty in the case and are awaiting sentencing.

Jeffery Harrison, 43, of Texarkana and Justin Bishop, 50, of Clarksville, Texas, entered pleas of guilty in May at hearings before Craven. Harrison and Bishop represented vendors seeking government contracts at the depot.

Devin McEwin, 41, entered a plea of guilty to bribery in June before Craven. McEwin was a public official whose duties at RRAD involved purchasing electrical supplies. McEwin accepted bribes of more than \$21,000 from Jeffrey Harrison.

Scarbrough faces up to five years in prison if convicted of conspiracy to defraud the U.S., up to 15 years in prison on each of two counts of bribery and up to 20 years in prison if convicted of conspiracy to launder money. All of the men face possible fines as well.