Former Senior Executive of Defense Contractor Pleads Guilty to Tax Evasion

Concealed More Than $530,000 in Income

August 25, 2022

WASHINGTON – The Joint Chiefs of Global Tax Enforcement (J5) welcomed today the guilty plea of a former senior executive for a defense contractor to tax evasion in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

From 2013 through 2015, Zachary A. Friedman, of New York, New York, worked in the United Arab Emirates as a senior executive for a U.S. Department of Defense contracting company. From 2013 to 2015 Friedman evaded taxes he owed to the IRS by providing false information to his tax preparer that underreported the income he earned for each of those years. In total, Friedman concealed approximately $530,000 in income, causing a tax loss to the government of more than $207,000.

Friedman is the fourth defendant associated with the defense contracting company to plead guilty. Charles Squires (February 2022), James Robar (March 2022), and Ronald Thomas (April 2022) all pleaded guilty to tax evasion.

Friedman is scheduled to be sentenced at a later date. He faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison for tax evasion. He also faces a period of supervised release, restitution, and monetary penalties. IRS-Criminal Investigation and the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction are investigating the case.

Assistance was provided by the Joint Chiefs of Global Tax Enforcement (J5), which leads the fight against international tax crime and money laundering, including cryptocurrency threats and those who undertake, enable or facilitate global tax evasion. They work together to gather information, share intelligence and conduct coordinated operations against transnational financial crimes. The J5 includes the Australian Taxation Office, the Canada Revenue Agency, the Dutch Fiscal Information and Investigation Service, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs from the U.K. and IRS-CI from the U.S.

For more information about the J5, please visit www.irs.gov/j5.

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