

Summary: Investigation of Alleged Unauthorized Government Purchase Card Use by Senior BSEE Official

Report Date: February 22, 2016

OIG investigated allegations that a senior official from the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) requested and approved multiple unauthorized purchases for personal gain using a Government purchase card.

We determined that the official, a GS-15, directed and approved \$20,272 in questionable purchases for BSEE and the BSEE dive program that were neither discussed with nor approved by the official's supervisor or the Dive Control Safety Board (DCSB). While BSEE and DCSB require a supervisor to review and approve all purchases in advance, we found that the purchases support the dive program. We found no indication that the BSEE official personally gained from the purchases.

During the investigation, we also discovered an altered Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214) in the official's personnel file. The official admitted that he made the alteration, which concealed that he separated from military service for unacceptable conduct. In addition, we identified that the official made a false statement on his Declaration for Federal Employment (Optional Form 306) pertaining to that separation.

We referred the results of our investigation to the U.S. Attorney's Office in the District of Columbia, which declined to prosecute. We also provided our findings to BSEE for review and action, and the official has been temporary relieved of supervisory responsibilities pending any administrative action.

This is a summary of an investigative report that was issued internally to the U.S. Department of the Interior. This summary was posted to the web on May 11, 2016.

