

# **Summary: Investigation of Retaliation and Mismanagement by IBC Acquisition Services Directorate Officials**

**Report Date: April 27, 2016**

OIG investigated allegations that senior officials from the Interior Business Center's Acquisition Services Directorate (AQD) retaliated against AQD employees who raised concerns about a hostile work environment created by a former division chief. The complainant further alleged that –

- the senior officials prohibited their staff from contacting OIG during AQD's internal investigation into the division chief;
- the senior officials issued unwarranted personnel actions against employees who complained about the internal investigation;
- one of the officials hired a personal acquaintance without following proper hiring practices and allowed her to permanently telework, and;
- that the senior officials knew about and condoned the overcharging of fees on contracts that AQD administered for the U.S. Department of Defense's Defense Advanced Research Project Agency (DARPA) and the use of these fees to fund a \$500,000 AQD conference.

We found no evidence that the senior officials retaliated against employees, prohibited employees from contacting the OIG, took unwarranted personnel actions, or committed improper hiring actions. We questioned the senior officials about overcharging fees on DARPA contracts and they denied any knowledge of overbilling. We did not review any DARPA contracts as part of our investigation; however, we referred that allegation to the U.S. Department of Defense, Office of Inspector General. Our investigation also found that the AQD conference took place in October 2015 and cost \$147,324.57 for 163 attendees.

This is a summary of an investigative report that was issued to the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget for information only. We did not require a response.

