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### **2018-0020-INVI-P – Suspected Federal Employee Compensation Act (FECA) Fraud by Former Architect of the Capitol (AOC) Employee: Not Substantiated**

The AOC, Human Capital Management Division (HCMD) initiated a proactive effort to identify former AOC employees who may be fraudulently receiving FECA program benefits. During the effort, the AOC's HCMD evaluated all claimants on prolonged disability status, and forwarded those of interest to the AOC Office of Inspector General (OIG). Part of the AOC's HCMD effort was to contract independent surveillance by a private investigative firm to document the activities of claimants receiving benefits.

The AOC OIG worked closely with workers' compensation specialists within the HCMD to evaluate each claim and the established case management process for FECA claimants. Collaboration between the AOC OIG and the HCMD Workers' Compensation Section determined that the loss of AOC funds was attributed to process errors within the Department of Labor (DOL) and the AOC HCMD which caused waste and not due to claimant fraud. The OIG will continue to work with the HCMD Workers' Compensation Section to detect and deter FECA fraud and abuse in an effort to minimize financial loss to the AOC.

**Final Management Action:** A former AOC employee has received benefits since December 12, 1996 due to injuries he sustained on November 18, 1996. It was reported to the AOC OIG that the employee was engaged in unreported employment that extended beyond his prescribed DOL restrictions. Through investigative activity it was determined that the son of the claimant, who shares the same name and address as the claimant, was the individual employed and observed conducting physical labor. The claimant was not employed or otherwise suspected of committing FECA program fraud. Based on the totality of the circumstances, and the claimant's apparent compliance with DOL requirements, the investigation was closed and not substantiated for FECA fraud. There was no recovery of funds to the AOC. The loss to the AOC was only the procurement of contract surveillance which was erroneously executed.