



Inspector General

2025-0002-INVI-P — Misuse of Government Equipment

Suspected Violations of the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) “Standards of Conduct” and “AOC IT Resources and De Minimis Use” Policies; and the “IT System Rules of Behavior.” **Substantiated**

While conducting a review of agency e-mail in furtherance of a separate, ongoing AOC Office of Inspector General (OIG) matter, AOC OIG discovered that an AOC supervisor had emailed five sexually explicit adult pornographic videos from their AOC owned e-mail account to the same AOC owned e-mail account on February 4, 2006. OIG initiated an investigation to review the supervisor’s more recent use of AOC issued Information Technology (IT) assets.

A digital forensic examination of the supervisor’s issued IT equipment did not identify inappropriate material on their desktop workstation; however, the forensic exam extracted 121 questionable images within caches for the internet browser and multiple social media applications on their AOC iPhone. One adult pornographic video file was saved to the files within the iPhone.

During an interview with the OIG, the supervisor denied sending or ever seeing the explicit videos in their agency e-mail and denied all association with the explicit video obtained from their iPhone. Eventually, they admitted to using their AOC e-mail to create a social media account, but claimed to have deleted it. They also eventually admitted to having seen “some” of the images displayed to them during the interview from their participation in a social media group.

Documentary evidence obtained by the OIG displayed that the employee had previously signed the AOC’s IT System Rules of Behavior and was aware of appropriate use of IT resources.

Historic AOC policies associated with the use of e-mail in 2006 may also apply to this matter, but because the forensic exam identified recent explicit and inappropriate material, the Report of Investigation only cited violations of current AOC policy. In addition, because the violations identified within the investigation were purely administrative in nature, the United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia declined to review any potential violations of law associated with Title 18 U.S. Code §1001, Statements or entries generally, that may have occurred during the investigation.

Final Management Action:

The OIG substantiated that the supervisor violated AOC policy, and the administrative violations were submitted to the Architect of the Capitol for action deemed appropriate, if any. The case is closed pending management action.