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2018-0017-INVI-P – Suspected Federal Employee Compensation Act (FECA) Fraud by Former Architect of the Capitol Employee: Not Substantiated

The Architect of the Capitol (AOC), Human Capital Management Division (HCMD) initiated a proactive effort to identify former AOC employees who may be fraudulently receiving Federal Workers' Compensation Act (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).

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 Department of Labor 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 November 17, 1989. The DOL chargeback billing for the employee's compensation was reduced due to a change in the claimant's medical limitations and dependent status. The monthly compensation was decreased from \$1,891.00 to \$1,717.00, resulting in a \$2,160 per year savings and collection of a \$6,062 overpayment to claimant. This investigation did not substantiate FECA fraud.