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2018-0019-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 05, 1999, for a work injury on April 27, 1992 that caused permanent damage to his right wrist. The employee was classified as temporarily disabled following the incident and was given workplace modifications, allowing him to remain employed. The claimant remained injured and was moved to the periodic roles as a permanently, but only partially disabled, claimant. The AOC HCMD requested a new labor market survey for the claimant's Wage Earning Capacity. The DOL declined to issue a new wage analysis in the absence of a major change in medical restrictions or other compelling development. No savings to the AOC were made and this investigation did not substantiate FECA fraud.