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2019-0001-INVI-P – Federal Employee Compensation Act (FECA) Fraud by Architect of the Capitol (AOC) Employee: Substantiated

The AOC Office of Inspector General (OIG) received a complaint from the AOC, Human Capital Management Division (HCMD) Worker's Compensation Section who alleged that an employee staged a fall and fabricated a workplace injury. The employee claimed that they slipped on a ramp and sustained a back injury that prevented the employee from returning to a work status. A compact disc with two videos capturing the alleged injury was obtained. The video showed the employee walk to the top of the ramp, look both ways, drop the items in their hands and then lower themselves to the ramp. The employee remained on the ground until they were transported to the hospital by ambulance. The employee was interviewed and admitted that they were injured prior to the fall and were complicit in making the fall worse in an attempt to get medical benefits and treatment.

Final Management Action: The OIG and HCMD Worker's Compensation Section investigated the employee's claim and challenged it with the Department of Labor before the employee was awarded compensation. The employee filed for retirement as of November 19, 2018 and no further action was taken. The employee was coded as ineligible for future AOC employment as an annuitant. Although no cost savings can be calculated, the employee will be receiving retirement benefits rather than FECA benefits which would have been a higher cost to the government.