

# Summary: Investigation of Complaint That USPP Mismanaged an Internal Investigation

**Report Date: May 11, 2015**

OIG investigated a complaint from a private citizen alleging that the U.S. Park Police's (USPP) Internal Affairs Unit (IAU) had mismanaged an internal investigation of a complaint he filed with IAU. In that original complaint, he alleged that a USPP officer had falsified an incident report documenting a bicycle collision involving the complainant on a trail near the Golden Gate Bridge Plaza in February 2014, and that the USPP officer had behaved unprofessionally in a follow-up interaction.

The complainant alleged that IAU had mismanaged the internal investigation by assigning it to a coworker of the officer rather than an IAU investigator. When the results of the internal investigation proved inconclusive, the complainant felt that the investigation was incomplete and accused IAU personnel of approving an incomplete investigative report. He also alleged that the National Park Service's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) office had failed to act on his request for documents related to the bicycle collision.

Our investigation determined that IAU followed USPP policies and procedures in addressing the original complaint. Allegations related to on-duty conduct by USPP personnel that are not criminal in nature—such as this complaint—are generally investigated by the relevant field office or the division to which the employee is assigned, not by IAU.

We found that, in accordance with policy, IAU referred the complaint to the USPP San Francisco Field Office to be investigated by the Field Operations Division. The investigation was conducted by a USPP supervisor and, once completed, was approved by the operations commander at the field office. It was also reviewed by the acting commander of the Office of Professional Responsibility, who concurred with the investigative findings, closing the investigation. We also found that IAU was not responsible for reviewing or approving the completed investigative report. During our interview with the complainant, he said that since he had filed his OIG complaint, the FOIA office had provided him with all of the documents that he had requested.

We provided the results of our investigation to the USPP chief for informational purposes. We did not require a response.

*This is a summary of an investigative report that was issued internally to the U.S. Department of the Interior. This summary was posted to the web on August 17, 2015.*

