**Abuse of Position**

**If I Help You Land This Multimillion Dollar Contract, Will You Give Me a Job?**

A former government human resource director was sentenced to two years of probation for violating conflicts of interest laws, 18 U.S.C. § 208, and lying on his financial disclosure report. A whistleblower spilled the beans on a polling and market research firm’s price inflation for government contracts and simultaneously its offer of a six-figure salary to the government official who was working to expand the firm’s multimillion dollar contract with his agency. The former official was criminally sentenced to two-years of probation for failing to notify ethics officials about his employment arrangement with the firm on his financial disclosure report. In a related civil case, the former employee was barred from future government contracting work and forced to pay a $40,000 fine. Last but not least, the firm pulled his employment offer after the news broke.

**General Discovers that Military Aides Are Not Supposed to Feed Cats**

Military officials discovered that a General was misusing Government personnel, improperly accepting gifts of services from subordinates, and misusing his position. What did he do? The General used his enlisted aides to help host unofficial functions at his headquarters, provide driving lessons to a family member, and to feed a friend’s cat. Although the aides were initially paid with $30-$40 Starbucks gift cards for their services, the General, taking full responsibility for his actions even though he retired, rectified the misuse and underpayment for services by retroactively paying the aides almost $2,000.

**Misadventures in Hiring Family**

Two retired colonels working for a National Guard educational program were found to have not been impartial in their duties when engaging in family hires. Colonel 1 nicely asked Colonel 2 to authorize the hiring of Colonel 1’s son as a contractor which Colonel 2 did. . Not to be outdone, Colonel 2 oversaw the hiring of his nephew and brother-in-law as contractors. Colonel 2 even attempted to get his own son hired as a contractor, but Colonel 2’s supervisor

correctly thought it would be inappropriate. Each colonel was issued a letter of caution to avoid an appearance of a conflict and were required to take an annual ethics training course.

**BRIBERY**

**(18 U.S.C. 201-Type Violations)**

**My Oath of Office for Your Cold Hard Cash**

A U.S. Foreign Service officer, who worked in the U.S. Consulate in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, was responsible for issuing visas after reviewing applications and conducting interviews. He conspired with U.S. and Vietnamese citizens to recruit customers who would pay $15,000 to $70,000 in exchange for non-immigrant visas from Vietnam to the U.S. He accepted over $3 million in bribes and allowed nearly 500 foreign nationals to enter the U.S. He pleaded guilty to bribery and agreed to pay at least $6 million in a money judgment and faces up to 24 years in prison.

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

**(18 U.S.C. § 208-Type Violations)**

**USAID Official Aids Himself**

As Chief Financial Officer of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), a former official helped draft a contract solicitation for a senior advisor—a position that he intended to apply for after he retired—and tailored the solicitation to his specific skills and experience. This is considered personal participation in a particular matter that has a direct and predictable effect on his financial interest. Thus, by violating the conflict of interest criminal statute, he was ordered to pay the Government a $30,000 penalty in settlement.

**Credit Card Abuse**

**Government Employees Double Down on Taxpayer-Funded Gambling**

Two Government employees used their government-issued credit cards to fund their gambling and bowling binge, to the tune of almost $35,000. Unfortunately, gambling was just not enough. One of the employees, a manager, racked up an additional $13,000 in expenses to cover car rentals for personal use. In the end, approximately $47,000 of the tax payer’s money bankrolled the employees’ fun and games. The manager, spending a total of $45,000, repaid the debt to the Government and took an early retirement. The other employee, spending a total of $2,400, repaid the debt to the Government and was fired.

**FRAUD**

**(Violations Not Covered Elsewhere)**

**Posing as Mother?**

In August of 2013, the son of a deceased motherwas sentenced to 14 months in prison after pleading guilty to stealing about $350,000 by cashing social security and federal annuity checks meant for his long-dead mother. He had negotiated and converted these checks from March 1999 through June 2012.

**Gift Violations**

**A Gold-Plated Retirement**

A former General commanding U.S. forces in South Korea improperly accepted over $5,000 in gifts and cash, including gold-plated pens, from a South Korean benefactor. The General claimed that the gifts were accepted because the South Korean was a longtime and personal friend, despite the fact that the South Korean did not speak English and they were forced to communicate through hand signals and gestures. The General repaid the South Korean in full and was allowed to retire at a lower grade.

**MISUSE OF GOVERNMENT RESOURCES AND PERSONNEL**

**All Your Hotel Points Belong to Me**

While working at the Air Force Legal Operating Agency, an official directed Air Force JAGs to stay at local hotels at a higher monetary rate when housing was available on Maxwell AFB at a much lower rate. This official used his Marriott reward points to reserve hotel rooms for visiting military personnel so that he could use his public office for private gain and collect the mileage for himself. As a result of the scheme, the official received a total of 587,282 Marriott reward points and an additional 100,000 reward points for other room arrangements. He pled guilty and was sentenced to pay a $5,000 fine and $90,356 in restitution to the Government for defrauding the Air Force.

**An Official U.S-Russian Party**

A high-level U.S. military official in charge of nuclear weapons had a real blast on his official trip to Moscow, where he imbibed to his heart’s content, mingled with “suspicious” foreign women he met at a bar, and topped it off by insulting his Russian hosts. After a series of other embarrassing gaffes, higher-ups relieved the General of his command. He has since received a letter of counseling and has been reassigned.

**Always Read the Fine Print**

A former State Department official used her position to funnel millions in government contracting work to her husband’s company by persuading a contracting officer to sign the contract without looking at the fine print. How much money was at issue --$39 million—enough for the official to buy a Lexus, a half-million dollar yacht, and nearly a quarter-million dollars in jewelry within two years. The proceeds were going to her company, and she kept secret that the company was owned by her and her husband. While the contracted work was completed, the 64 year old State Department official was ordered to serve two years in prison for committing fraud against the Government.

**Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Issues**

**Men Seeking Fines, Extra Duty, and Loss of Rank**

Military investigators discovered ads seeking sex that were posted by seventeen military and civilian personnel while deployed to Afghanistan. Among the perpetrators were enlisted, officers, and a non-American. The ads included men seeking women and men seeking men. The ads, determined to be prejudicial to good order and discipline, warranted fines, extra duty, restriction of privileges, and possible loss of rank. The non-American was ordered to leave the country.

**TIME AND ATTENDANCE VIOLATIONS**

**Secret Agent Man?**

A former high-level official at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) stole nearly $900,000 from the Government by pretending to be part of a detail to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) for nearly two decades. He duped a series of supervisors, including top officials, by disappearing from the office and explaining his absences by telling his bosses that he was doing top-secret work for the CIA and its “directorate of operations.” No one at EPA ever checked to see if he worked for the CIA. In all, he was paid for 2.5 years of work that he did not perform and received about $500,000 in “retention bonuses” that he did not deserve. Additionally, he lied about contracting malaria, which cost the EPA $8,000 over three years for a parking space reserved for the disabled. He was reimbursed for $57,000 in fraudulent travel expenses, and he continued to draw a paycheck for 19 months after his retirement. He has repaid the nearly $900,000 to the EPA, but still owes $507,000 in a money judgment. He was sentenced to 32 months in prison.