



**U.S. OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL**

1730 M Street, N.W., Suite 218  
Washington, D.C. 20036-4505  
202-254-3600

April 27, 2010

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: OSC File No. DI-08-2693

Dear Mr. President:

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 1213(e)(3), the Office of Special Counsel (OSC) is forwarding to you an agency report concerning disclosures from Roy Wood, a whistleblower at the Department of the Air Force (Air Force), 14<sup>th</sup> Force Support Squadron (14<sup>th</sup> FSS), Columbus Air Force Base (Columbus AFB), Mississippi. Mr. Wood, who consented to the release of his name, alleged that 14<sup>th</sup> FSS officials improperly authorized a civilian employee's absence from her official duty station for an extended period of time. He further alleged that 14<sup>th</sup> FSS officials falsified official government documents to retroactively document and legitimize the absence.

Mr. Wood's allegations were referred by our office to the Honorable Michael B. Donley, Secretary of the Air Force to conduct an investigation pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 1213(c) and (d) on January 29, 2009. Secretary Donley tasked the investigation of the matter to the Commander of the 19<sup>th</sup> Air Force who ordered a Commander Directed Investigation (CDI). Secretary Donley submitted a report of his findings based on the results of the CDI to OSC on October 6, 2009.

The report did not substantiate the whistleblower's allegation that the telework arrangement was improper. According to the report, 14<sup>th</sup> FSS management officials acted within their authority in permitting the civilian employee to work from home while recuperating following surgery but did not prepare or process paperwork reflecting that decision in a timely manner. While the report concluded that there was insufficient evidence of time card fraud, it did find that there was a general lack of understanding on the part of 14<sup>th</sup> FSS officials regarding the proper processing of alternative worksite arrangements (AWA) paperwork. As a result, Lieutenant Colonel Jose Aleman, the 14<sup>th</sup> FSS Commander responsible for authorizing the telework arrangement, was counseled regarding his failure to follow proper procedures in handling the AWA. In addition, the 14<sup>th</sup> FSS unit was ordered to receive training on proper AWA procedures. According to the report, this training was completed on July 21, 2009.

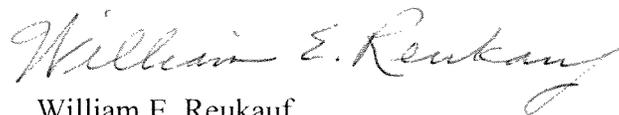
Mr. Wood declined to comment on the report. We have reviewed the original disclosures and the agency's report. Based on that review, we have determined that the

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agency's report contains all of the information required by statute and that its findings appear to be reasonable.

As required by law, 5 U.S.C. § 1213(e)(3), we have sent a copy of the agency report to the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees. We have also filed a revised copy of the agency report in our public file which is now available online at [www.osc.gov](http://www.osc.gov) and closed our file in this matter.<sup>1</sup>

Respectfully,



William E. Reukauf  
Associate Special Counsel

Enclosure

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<sup>1</sup> The Air Force provided OSC with a revised report, which substituted duty titles for the names of each Air Force officer and civilian employee referenced therein, excluding the whistleblower. The Air Force cited the Privacy Act of 1974 (Privacy Act) (5 U.S.C. § 552a) as the basis for this revision to the report produced in response to 5 U.S.C. § 1213. OSC objects to the Air Force's use of the Privacy Act to remove the name of each Air Force officer and civilian employee on the basis that the application of the Privacy Act in this manner is overly broad.