



U.S. OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL

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

April 14, 2011

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

Re: OSC File No. DI-10-4007

Dear Mr. President:

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 1213(e)(3), enclosed please find an agency report based on disclosures made by Sonya Greene, a whistleblower at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), John D. Dingell VA Medical Center (JDDVAMC), Detroit, Michigan. Ms. Greene, who consented to the release of her name, alleged that her second-level supervisor, Associate Chief of Nursing Marla Gresham, and other VA employees, were responsible for a violation of law, rule, or regulation and engaged in gross mismanagement by forwarding inappropriate e-mails, including potentially pornographic images involving children, while on duty, using the government's e-mail system.

On November 9, 2010, Ms. Greene's allegations were referred to the Honorable Eric Shinseki, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to conduct an investigation into this disclosure pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 1213(c) and (d). Secretary Shinseki tasked the investigation of the matter to the Office of Inspector General (OIG). OSC received the agency report dated March 4, 2011.

The allegations were initially forwarded to the VA OIG to investigate possible criminal violations. The OIG, in consultation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Innocent Images Unit, determined that no criminal violations had occurred. The investigation was, subsequently, turned over to the JDDVAMC Chief of Protection and Support Service, the Facility Information Security Officer, the Associate Director for Patient Care Services, and the Chief of Human Resources. The agency investigation determined that Ms. Gresham, four other JDDVAMC employees, and four employees at the Loma Linda VA Medical Center, Loma Linda, California, sent inappropriate e-mails in violation of VA Directive 6001 sections 2c(3) and 2c(4). These nine VA employees received proposed admonishments.

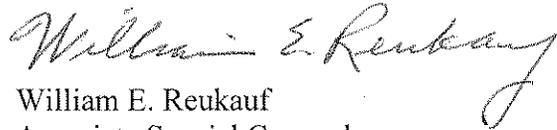
Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 1213(e), Ms. Greene provided comments dated March 18, 2011, on the agency report. Ms. Greene expressed appreciation to OSC for its assistance in addressing her allegations. She considered the actions taken by the offenders to be "a great disservice and dishonor . . . against all of our service members."

OSC has reviewed the original disclosure, the agency report, and Ms. Greene's comments. Based on that review, OSC has determined that the agency report contains all the information required by statute, and the findings of the agency head appear reasonable.

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As required by law, 5 U.S.C. § 1213(e)(3), we have forwarded copies of the agency report and Ms. Greene's comments to the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Senate and House Committees on Veterans Affairs. We have also filed copies of the report and Ms. Greene's comments in our public file, which is available online at www.osc.gov, and closed the matter.

Respectfully,



William E. Reukauf
Associate Special Counsel

Enclosures