

VA Office of Inspector General



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Criminal Investigations Division*

Overview

- VA OIG History
- VA OIG / VA Statistics
- Law Enforcement Authority
- Mission - VA OIG video of past cases
- Area of Responsibility
- What, Why, and How to Report to VAOIG
- Operation Stolen Valor
- Questions

OIG History

- October 12, 1978-IG Act (5 USC App.)
 - Billie Sol Estes & Bobbie Baker/TX/Grain Storage, and Agricultural Subsidies Scheme
 - President Carter
 - Created independent audit and investigative offices in 12 Federal agencies. VA among the 12
- § 6. (1) to have access to all records, reports, audits, reviews, documents, papers, recommendations, or other material available to the applicable establishment which relate to programs and operations with respect to which that Inspector General has responsibilities under this Act

- 38 CFR 1.201 Employee's duty to report. All VA employees with knowledge or information about actual or possible violations of criminal law related to VA programs, operations, facilities, contracts, or information technology systems shall immediately report such knowledge or information to their supervisor, any management official, or directly to the Office of Inspector General. (Authority: 5 U.S.C. App. 3, 38 U.S.C. 902)
- 38 CFR 1.204 Information to be reported to the Office of Inspector General. Criminal matters involving felonies will also be immediately referred to the Office of Inspector General, Office of Investigations. VA management officials with information about possible criminal matters involving felonies will ensure and be responsible for prompt referrals to the OIG. Examples of felonies include but are not limited to, theft of Government property over \$1000, false claims, false statements, drug offenses, crimes involving information technology systems and serious crimes against the person, i.e., homicides, armed robbery, rape, aggravated assault and serious physical abuse of a VA patient. (Authority: 5 U.S.C. App. 3)

VA OIG / VA Stats

- Today the VAOIG includes four branches (Staff – 488):
 - Audit
 - Healthcare Inspections
 - Management & Administration (Hotline)
 - Investigations

VA Agency Stats:

- 286,000 employees, serving over 23 million veterans and their families. We operate 153 medical centers, 755 outpatient clinics, 230 Vet Centers, 128 national cemeteries, and 54 regional offices. Administering programs, to include VA healthcare, disability benefits, GI Bill/education, home loan, vocational rehabilitation, and grant programs and research studies.
- Second–largest cabinet–level department, the sixth–largest insurance company, and the largest healthcare system, with patients health records electronically stored.
- Budget over \$90 billion.

Authority

- The Inspector General Act of 1978, 5 U.S.C. app. 3, established criminal investigative jurisdiction for the offices of presidentially appointed Inspectors General
- Section 812 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Pub. Law No. 107-296)
- Public law 108-277, 108th Congress (Law Enforcement Safety Act of 2004)

Mission

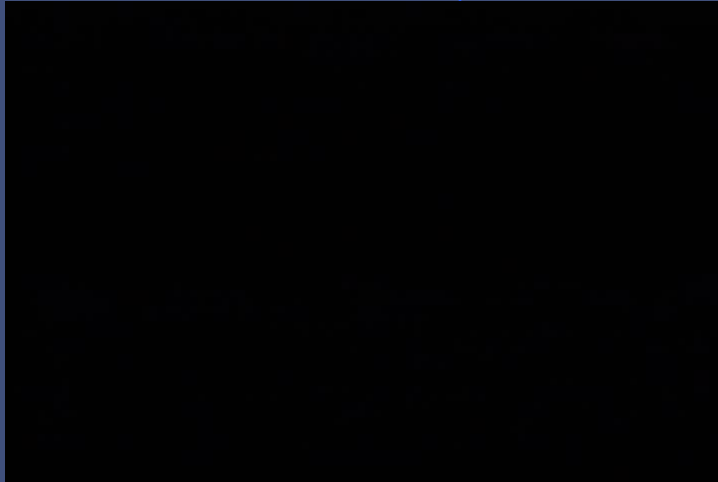
Criminal Investigations Division conducts investigations of criminal activities affecting the programs and operations of VA in an independent and objective manner, and assists the Department in detecting and preventing fraud and other criminal violations. Criminal investigations include:

- Procurement fraud
- Bribery
- Embezzlement by fiduciaries and VA employees
- Identity theft & "Stolen Valor" fraud
- Drug diversion & distribution of illegal drugs
- Benefits fraud
- Computer crime
- Crimes against persons and property such as:
 - Patient abuse
 - Sexual assault
 - Homicide
- Theft of government property, including data
- Threats against VA personnel and property
- Fugitive felon program

Fugitive Felon Program

- 38 USC 5313B (Dec 27, 2001) prohibits veterans, who are fugitive felons, or their dependents, from receiving specified VA benefits.
- VA OIG is authorized to provide information about veterans to law enforcement agencies identified as being responsible for serving the felony warrant.
- This is accomplished by comparing automated information with data supplied by VA benefit system records and the felony warrant records of various criminal justice organizations. The information provided by VA OIG is intended to assist in the apprehension of the fugitive felon.

VA OIG Case Re-enactments



Areas of Responsibility

- Florida
- Kentucky
- Tennessee
- Georgia
- Alabama
- Puerto Rico

Reporting to IG

- **What**-Any violation of regulation or law that is affecting the safe and effective operation of the VA, to include to crimes, fraud, waste, and mismanagement.
 - Crime--violation of law
 - Fraud--Gaining something of value through trickery or deception
 - No Thresholds – only limited by work load and prosecutorial acceptance

- **Why:**

- IG Act
- CFRs
- Federal Statutes
- State Statutes
- VA OIG ability to assist

- Integrity/Reputation of VA/Maintain public trust and confidence to efficiently manage public monies

● How-VAOIG Hotline

Toll-Free:

1-800-488-8244

Address:

VA Inspector General Hotline
P.O. Box 50410
Washington, DC 20091

E-Mail:

vaoig hotline@mail.va.gov

FAX:

202-565-7936

● Criminal Referrals- Southeast Field Office:

Address:

VAOIG
P.O. Box 446
Bay Pines, FL 33744

ASAC Stokes:

727-319-1215
Monty.Stokes@va.gov

What Stolen Valor is and Where is the VA Nexus

- **Stolen Valor Act**
 - Public Law 109-437. signed into law by President Bush on December 24, 2006
 - To amend title 18, United States Code, to enhance protections relating to the reputation and meaning of the Medal of Honor and other military decorations and awards, and for other purposes
- **The DD-214 (Military Service Discharge Document)** and medals used as the basis for VA Medical and Compensation payments, identity theft, bank fraud etc.
- **Operation Stolen Valor**

Stolen Valor





Questions