

DHS-IG today made public its quarterly report of high-dollar overpayments. The highlights:

Overpayments discovered between 1/1/2012 – 3/31/2012:

Overpaid	Recovered	Outstanding balance
\$452,652.74	\$391,305.71	\$61,347.03

The entire outstanding balance represents overpayments by the U.S. Coast Guard to individual service members for various mistakes such as continuing to pay off-base housing subsidies for members living in government quarters or continuing to pay salary following discharge from the service.

Previously reported overpayments which remain uncollected as of 3/31/2012:

Overpaid	Recovered since the last report	Outstanding balance
\$1,350,710.29	\$7,007.14	\$1,343,703.15

The bulk of the outstanding balance (\$1,307,577.17) were funds distributed by FEMA nationwide for everything from “Emergency Food & Shelter” to “Public Assistance” to “Federal Insurance Mitigation and Administration.” Collection is NOT underway respecting \$362,484.63 because the agency is unclear about the legality of recovering Emergency Food & Shelter funds. An additional \$27,609.10 wrongly paid to a Carson City, Nevada entity for a Homeland Security Grant has been outstanding for 604 days since it was first reported by DHS-IG. Meanwhile \$643,115.65 overpaid to a Washington, D.C. entity for a Homeland Security Grant has been outstanding for 612 days since it was first reported by DHS-IG. The balance of uncollected overpayments discovered in prior reporting periods (\$36,125.98) represents overpayments by the U.S. Coast Guard to individual service members which has yet to be recovered.

Uncollected overpayments referred to Treasury for tax garnishment:

\$19,239.54 paid by FEMA to an INDIVIDUAL in Seabrook, TX for “Individuals & Households Payments” to which the individual was apparently not entitled in the first place. DHS-IG first reported the improper payment on November 11, 2008.

\$38,563.00 paid by the U.S. Coast Guard to a Miami, FL entity for a product or service for which the U.S. Coast Guard appears to have paid twice. DHS-IG first reported the overpayment on September 25, 2010. U.S. Coast Guard added the vendor to its “Do Not Pay” list so that collection could begin by offsetting from future payments to this vendor. (Why is the U.S. Coast Guard still doing business with this entity???)