



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Office of Inspector General
Washington DC 20420

March 28, 2014

William Marshall
Judicial Watch
425 Third Street, SW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Mr. Marshall:

This letter responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for information held by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Inspector General (OIG) regarding allegations made by Oliver Mitchell and reported in the February 24, 2014 edition of *The Daily Caller*.

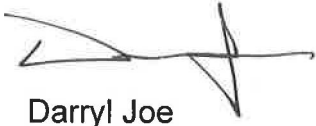
This serves as an interim response. We anticipate providing a final response the week of March 31, 2014.

Upon consideration of your request and review of the responsive Office of Inspector General documents, we have decided to grant your request in part.

In the news article you provided, Mr. Mitchell revealed himself as a complainant to the Office of Inspector General, but only with respect to one allegation. Accordingly, we have redacted information regarding any other allegations pursuant to FOIA Exemption 3 and the Inspector General's Act, as well as Exemption 6. FOIA Exemption 3 provides that information may be withheld if the information is exempt from disclosure by another confidentiality statute. The confidentiality statute applicable to your request, the Inspector General's Act of 1978, as amended, prohibits, in relevant part, disclosure of the identities or identifying information about employee-complainants. FOIA exemption 6 permits federal agencies to withhold portions of records that could be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6). With respect to the redactions, we do not find there is a public interest that outweighs the privacy interest of the individuals whose name has been withheld from the enclosed documents.

If you do not agree with this decision regarding the release of information, you may appeal to the Office of Inspector General. Please include your specific objection(s) as they pertain to the withheld information and reference your FOIA request number (14-00772-FOIA). The address is: Office of Inspector General (50C), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. You may also email your appeal to VAOIGFOIA-Appeals@va.gov. You must submit any appeal within sixty (60) calendar days of the date of this decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Darryl Joe', written over a horizontal line.

Darryl Joe
Chief, Information Release Office

Enclosure

11/27/2009 08:31 5628265987

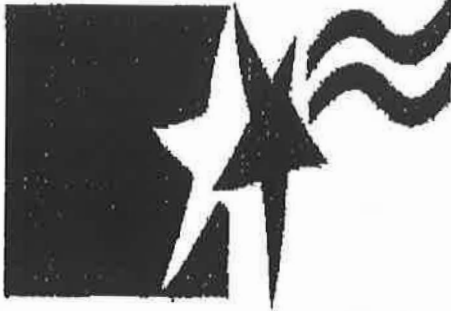
VISN22 NETWORK OFFIC

PAGE 01/03

(b)(6)



VA DESERT PACIFIC



Date: 11/27/09
Pages: Including Cover: 3
From: [Redacted]
Network 22 Office (10N/22)
5901 East Seventh Street
Long Beach, CA 90822

(b)(6)

Tel:
Fax:



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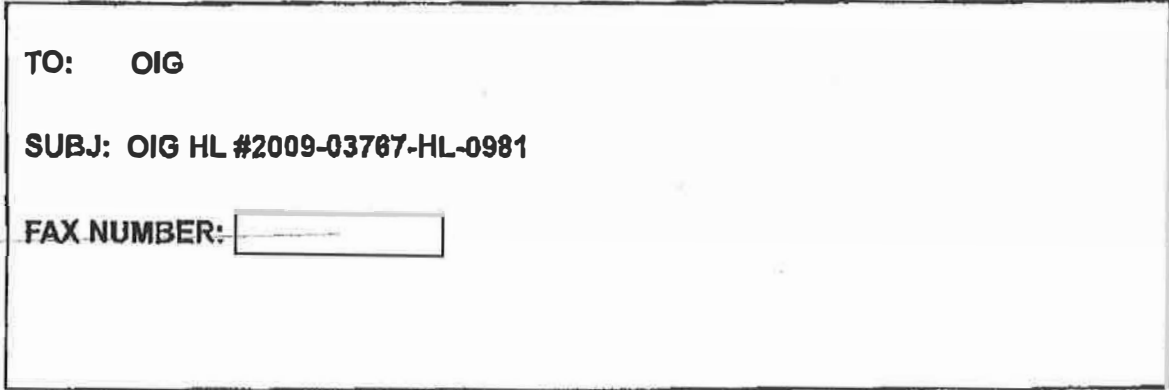
HEALTHCARE NETWORK

TO: OIG

SUBJ: OIG HL #2009-03767-HL-0981

(b)(6)

FAX NUMBER: [Redacted]



VA Department of Veterans Affairs

Memorandum

Date: November 25, 2009

From: Director, VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (601/00)

Subject: OIG Hotline Case #2009-03767-HL-0981

To: Director, Hotline Division (53E)

Thru: Director, Management Review Service (10B5)

Thru: Director, VA Desert Pacific Healthcare Network (10N/22)

[Redacted]

(b)(6)

1. Allegation: (b)(3);5 U.S.C. App 3 (IG Act),(b)(6)

2. Details of Allegation: An anonymous complaint alleges [Redacted]

(b)(3);5 U.S.C. App 3 (IG Act),(b)(6)

(b)(3);5 U.S.C. App 3 (IG Act), (b)(6)

3. GLA Response: (b)(6) [Redacted] GLA Privacy Officer, conducted a thorough investigation into this allegation. She found that (b)(3);5 U.S.C. App 3 (IG

(b)(3);5 U.S.C. App 3 (IG Act),(b)(6)

(b)(3);5 U.S.C. App 3 (IG Act),(b)(6)

(b)(3);5 U.S.C. App 3 (IG Act),(b)(6)

4. Should you have further questions regarding this allegation, please contact (b)(6) **at** (b)(6).

5. Allegation: (b)(3);5 U.S.C. App 3 (IG Act),(b)(6)

6. Details of Allegation: (b)(3);5 U.S.C. App 3 (IG Act),(b)(6)

(b)(3);5 U.S.C. App 3 (IG Act),(b)(6)

7. GLA Response: (b)(3);5 U.S.C. App 3 (IG Act),(b)(6)

(b)(3);5 U.S.C. App 3 (IG Act),(b)(6)

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(b)(3);38 U.S.C. 5701,(b)(6)

8. Allegation: Alleged Poor/False Documentation; and Alleged Patient Safety.

9. Details of Allegation: The complaint also alleges that the then Acting Chief of the GLA Imaging Service regularly cancelled patient MRI appointments from 2000 to November 2008, without proper notification of the cancellation to the patient.

10. GLA Response: During the period of time in question, the backlog of outstanding requests for MRI imaging studies across the Veterans Health Administration dated back 10 years. Central Office and the office of Dr. Charles Anderson, National Radiology Director, instructed all Imaging Services across the country to mass purge all outstanding imaging orders for studies older than 6 months, where the procedure was no longer needed, and with approval from the individual healthcare system's Medical Executive Committee (MEC). Upon investigation of the backlogged imaging orders within the GLA Imaging Service, it was found that most were no longer needed as the patients had received imaging with another modality, received alternate therapy obviating the need for MRI, or were no longer receiving their health care at GLA. All patient imaging requests that were found to still be valid were scheduled. Approval was granted for this process by the MEC, and in collaboration with the Service Chiefs and/or Careline Directors within the healthcare system.

11. Should you have further questions regarding these allegations, please contact [redacted] **Chief, GLA Imaging Service, at** [redacted]

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(b)(6)

(b)(6)



Donna M. Beiter, R.N., M.S.N.