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Closure Recommendation Memorandum

Case Number: 19-0044-I	Date of Entry: 06/01/2020
Primary Investigator: [redacted]	(b)(3)

Allegation Information

Narrative:

Complaint received documents pertaining to Qui Tam involving [redacted] Complaint filed with US District Court, Central District (CA), alleges that [redacted] systematically utilized false certifications for testing their quality assurances inspectors/engineers. These invalid certifications have allegedly resulted in false claims against multiple United States Government (USG) contracts. (b)(3)

Last Investigative Step:

Review of case documentation.

Resolution:

Unsubstantiated.

Case Closure Recommendation Justification

Additional Information:

(U//~~FOUO~~) An allegation was brought forth by the Relator stating as an employee within [redacted] (and reporting directly to [redacted]) he observed fraudulent activities on multiple NRO and U.S. Government contracts.

(U//~~FOUO~~) The Relator stated that he successfully completed [redacted] testing and certifications for use applicable to the inspection of various components involving the [redacted] as required, not only for him, but for other engineers working on such (and similar) programs. According to the Relator, certifications and completed testing requirements are standard for all companies that employ [redacted] "inspectors" to enable these individuals to perform associated tasks accurately. These inspectors perform highly technical functions which require a prerequisite amount of experience, training and qualification testing. (b)(3)

(U//~~FOUO~~) According to the Relator, [redacted] examinations were administered to inspectors with the intent that these individuals would eventually work, develop and oversee [redacted] (and other) projects at [redacted]. These exams were given to employees with the associated "answer key." The Relator did not provide any direct comment from exam administrators at [redacted] as to why the exam questions were provided with the answers. He assumed that in providing the exam's answers, it was some form of ethics evaluation as to whether he would "cheat." He recalled that over his previous 16 years as an inspector (four years as an [redacted] inspector) he had completed numerous exams and had never been provided (b)(3)

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the answers to an examination in advance of taking the test. His inference that the possibility of having inspectors who were not qualified to work on [redacted] programs could result in program failures due to the method of testing and "fraudulently" obtained qualifications at [redacted]

(U//~~FOUO~~) Per the Relator's allegation, numerous attempts at conveying his concerns for the dangers of having unqualified inspectors were met with silence and inaction.

(U//~~FOUO~~) Multiple witness interviews with [redacted] employees, with direct knowledge of [redacted] qualifications and testing (b)(3) procedures were completed. Within these interviews, no information or direct evidence corroborating the Relator's claim was obtained.

(U//~~FOUO~~) In a review of NRO and other U.C. Government contractual information, there exists no language to govern [redacted] administration, development or oversight of specific quality assurance methodology. The NRO and other involved U.S. Government Agencies do not have the language ingrained in current associated contracts to enforce any company specific quality assurance methodology.

(U//~~FOUO~~) The NRO, OIG has found that the specific allegation is unsubstantiated with no specific damages to NRO programs or any of the US Government contracts confirmed. Thus, the NRO, OIG does not require any further investigative measures pertaining to this specific matter.

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