

F o r Y o u r I n s p e c t i o n



“Mission First, People Always, Integrity Forever”

Volume 1, Issue 4

Winter 2006

www.cncsig.gov



Office Of Inspector General, Corporation For National And Community Service

OIG Profile

Linda C. Wallis

Assistant Inspector General for Support

Linda Wallis, who joined the Office of Inspector General (OIG) in 2002 as the Contracting Officer, was appointed Assistant Inspector General for Support in February 2003. She provides overall management and administrative support for OIG programs, including formulating and executing the budget, and overseeing training, information technology, procurement and strategic planning.



Wallis came to the OIG from the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command at Fort Belvoir, VA, where she served as Acting Director of Contracting. An expert in contracts and procurement, she previously served Army, Navy and Marine Corps commands in the U.S., Europe and the Far East.

A native of Ada, OK, and now a Virginia resident, Wallis holds a bachelor's degree in acquisition and contracts management from George Mason University and a certificate in the same specialties from the University of Virginia. She is also a graduate of the Army Management and Staff College at Fort Belvoir and has been certified as a Department of Defense Acquisition Professional Level III.

OIG Hotline !

Phone:
1 (800) 452-8210

E-Mail:
hotline@cncsoig.gov

Take Care With Childcare Benefits

AmeriCorps cares about families and children. So does VISTA. That's why both Corporation for National and Community Service (Corporation) programs provide help with childcare expenses to volunteers of modest means.

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) also cares about this benefit and comes down hard when members defraud American taxpayers by abusing the AmeriCorps Care and VISTA Care programs.

The programs, both administered and funded with Federal tax dollars by the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRA), provide subsidies for low-income members that are paid directly to their designated childcare providers. Eligibility requirements vary by State and are based on Federal poverty level income statistics (in 2005, \$25,000 for a four-person family in the Washington, DC, area). Amounts are tied to State subsidy rates for AmeriCorps Care and are capped at \$300 per month for VISTA Care.

Rules are stringent for participation in the programs, which are available only to full-time members who are not receiving any other kind

of government childcare subsidy. Monthly subsidy payments are made directly to caregivers, who must submit to NACCRRA a monthly attendance



voucher certifying the services provided.

Subsidies are available only during a member's active service and must be terminated whenever a participant exits an AmeriCorps or a VISTA program.

Abuses identified in OIG investigations include fraud and false statements, sometimes involving collusion with caregivers, that are punishable under Federal law and can lead to fines, prison sen-

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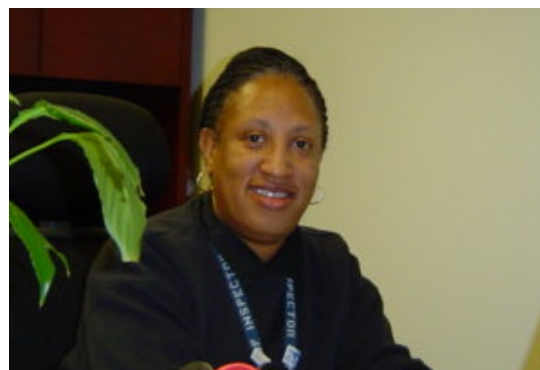
OIG Career Ladder is Fully Accessible

"It's different, it's exciting, it's new and it's not always the same," says Shirleen Chittams of her new post as Investigate Assistant in the Office of Inspector General.

Chittams, who joined the OIG in 1983, when the agency it oversees was known as ACTION, is the latest in a series of employees who've been offered and taken a step up on the OIG's career ladder. After a long Federal career as a secretary and administrative assistant, she's now serving as a key backup to Special Agents and learning the ropes of investigations.

"I was ready for a change," says Chittams, a D.C. native and Spingarn High grad. She began her new career in the summer of 2005 by attending a three-week basic investigators course at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Glynco, GA.

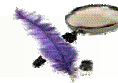
"It was a whole new world," she says of her



Shirleen Chittams

FLETC experience. "A world of police officers, agents and investigators and I was in it." Chittams is also learning on the job with the help of the OIG's Special

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Get 'Your Guide to the OIG'

What's involved with an Office of Inspector General investigation or audit? How can I get involved if I spot a possible case of waste, fraud or abuse? What are the rights of the accused or witnesses?



You'll get the answers to these queries and many more in "Your Guide to the Office of Inspector General," a new booklet that describes the role, mission and many activities of the OIG in an easy-to-read format.

It gives details on OIG audit and investigative policies and procedures, as well as information on how Corporation employees, program officials, national service volunteers and other stakeholders can assist in our efforts to protect taxpayer dollars invested in national service.

Our new Guide will be distributed in the coming weeks to Corporation and program personnel and national service participants. You can pick up the booklet at our office (Suite 830, Corporation Headquarters) or easily download a copy from our website at www.cnscsig.gov.

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Agents, for whom she maintains files and the investigative database and helps field Hotline calls reporting waste, fraud and abuse.

Chittams cites the OIG's training program, which requires all employees to complete a minimum of 40 hours of career-related studies each year, with helping her to build her skills. "Training is given a high priority by the OIG. It's a given thing," she notes.

Also climbing the career ladder is Special Agent Wendy Wingers, who began her OIG career in 2000 as an administrative assistant, became an investigative assistant and was promoted to Special Agent in 2004 after undergoing extensive FLETC training.

"I would have never been able to achieve this without the support and training offered to me by the OIG's management," says Wingers.

Winger's supervisor, Assistant Inspector General

for Investigations Robert Walters, is also a product of the OIG's career ladder. The former Senior Agent was promoted from within to his present post in 2004.

Deputy Inspector General Robert D. Shadowens has also climbed the OIG career ladder. He joined the OIG in 1995 as Assistant Inspector General for Investigations and was promoted to his current position in 2003. And Carol Bates, who currently serves as Acting Inspector General, joined the OIG in 2002 as an Audit Manager and was promoted in 2004 to Assistant Inspector General for Audit.

"Our staff is our most valuable resource and we should continue to invest in it," says Shadowens. "Promoting from within and extensive training are sound policies and they have allowed us to build a strong OIG team."

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tences and temporary debarment from participation in all Federal programs and benefits, including student loans.

In a recent OIG case, a former AmeriCorps member prepared false documents, claiming he had two children in childcare. In fact, only one child was receiving services. He used another false document to convince his caregiver that the NACRRRA subsidy for the second child should be refunded directly to him. The ex-member received a jail sentence, was ordered to make full restitution and was debarred.

In another notable case, a former AmeriCorps member was convicted of embezzling more than \$10,000 in NACRRRA subsidies by falsely claiming her five children were receiving care. She had also been fraudulently receiving childcare benefits from her home State.

In yet another OIG investigation, an ex-member was found to have committed fraud by claiming that a relative was providing childcare services. In reality, her "caregiver" was serving a prison sentence at the time and the ex-member was

forging the endorsements on her incarcerated relative's subsidy checks and pocketing the NACRRRA payments.

Halting and preventing NACRRRA program abuses is a top priority for the OIG, whose investigators are often alerted to scams by program officials and AmeriCorps and VISTA members. Poring over records and conducting extensive interviews, they soon confront accused abusers with conclusive and overwhelming evidence of document and check forging, double dipping in Federal and State childcare programs and other abuses.

Every limited Federal dollar for childcare that is illegally diverted by scam artists potentially means less available support for deserving parents serving in AmeriCorps and VISTA. And childcare fraud can also curtail support for the thousands of U.S. military personnel and their spouses and children who also depend on NACRRRA childcare subsidy programs while they serve in harm's way.

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In Our Brochures



The Full Brochures Can Be Found
And downloaded Free On Our [WEB Site www.cnscsig.gov](http://www.cnscsig.gov).

All About Audits

Your guide to audits
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1201 New York Avenue, N.W.
Suite 830
Washington, DC 20525

Phone: (202) 456-5000 ext. 390
Fax: (202) 545-2795
E-mail: postmaster@cnscsig.gov
Fraud Hotline: (800) 452-8210
E-mail: hotline@cnscsig.gov

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