



Department of Defense  
Office of the Inspector General

# Information Release

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 6, 2005

## **California-Based Computer Consulting Group Agrees to Pay \$300,000 in Restitution to the Government**

The Office of Inspector General (OIG), Department of Defense (DoD), announced today that on April 28, 2005, Computer Consulting Operations Specialists, Incorporated (CCOPS), Culver City, California, reached an official civil settlement agreement with the Department of Justice, United States Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Virginia, Alexandria, VA. CCOPS agreed to pay financial restitution to the Government in the amount of \$300,000 in a series of installments until September 1, 2007. CCOPS' settlement with the Government is related to previous criminal action committed against the Government by one of its company officers, Shirley Franklin.

CCOPS is a woman-owned, small and disadvantaged business located in Culver City, California. CCOPS provides information technology services to the public and Government customers. In exchange for business assistance, Franklin allowed a former executive assistant to the Director of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (SADBU), U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), to utilize at least \$275,000 in CCOPS-controlled funds for his own personal gain. The executive assistant thereby exerted substantial influence over the awarding of contracts by the Defense Modeling and Simulation Office (DMSO) to CCOPS. These awards were made between March 1998 through September 2000.

Franklin previously pled guilty in US District Court in June 2004 to a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 209, Supplementing the Salary of a Federal Official. Franklin was sentenced to a term of 30 days in jail and two years supervised probation in September 2004.

The investigation was conducted jointly by the Defense Criminal Investigative Service (the criminal arm of the OIG, DoD), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Gerard Mene, EDVA prosecuted this case.

The point of contact regarding this press release is Joseph A. McMillan, Special Agent In Charge (SAC), Mid-Atlantic Field Office 703-604-8411.

To report suspected fraud, waste and abuse within DoD programs, contact the Defense Hotline toll free at (800) 424-9098, e-mail: [hotline@dodig.osd.mil](mailto:hotline@dodig.osd.mil)/ or visit them on the world wide web <http://www.osd.mil/hotline/>.

- OIG -