



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Office of Inspector General
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Subject: Special Inquiry, Alleged Misconduct by Employees at the VA
Medical Center, Gainesville, Florida, Report No. 8PR-G03-110

Introduction

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Inspector General (OIG) reviewed an allegation that two female exotic dancers were brought to the office of (b)(6) at the VA Medical Center in Gainesville, Florida, to perform in the nude, and that the performance was videotaped. The complainant further alleged that the tape was shown to other staff over the next several days.

OIG Special Agents in the Office of Investigations conducted the review in coordination with the Medical Center's Police and Security Service. The reviewers interviewed the (b)(6) and the (b)(6), and obtained and viewed the tape of the incident. They substantiated the allegation. Since the Office of Investigations found no criminal statutes were violated, they referred the matter to the Hotline and Special Inquiries Division for appropriate administrative review.

Results of Review

On April 20, 1998, (b)(6), (b)(6), hired two female exotic dancers to perform in the nude for (b)(6), (b)(6), as a birthday surprise. The dancers performed in (b)(6) office at the Medical Center, with several employees, including the (b)(6), in attendance. The performance was videotaped and still photographs were taken of the event, which lasted over 30 minutes. Neither (b)(6) nor anyone else in attendance attempted to stop the performance.

On April 23, OIG Special Agents interviewed the (b)(6), (b)(6). At that time, (b)(6) denied knowledge of the performance and the videotape,

and denied knowledge of others being permitted into **(b)(6)** office to view the tape. However, the following day, **(b)(6)** acknowledged to a Police and Security Service officer that she had not been truthful. She stated that the incident was videotaped and that she allowed others access to **(b)(6)** office, with his knowledge, to view the tape. The original tape was subsequently turned in to Police and Security Service officers, who then provided it to the OIG.

On May 11, 1998, **(b)(6)** hand-delivered proposed admonishments to **(b)(6)**, **(b)(6)**, and **(b)(6)**. **(b)(6)** was charged with conduct unbecoming a Federal employee for allowing the exotic dancers to perform in the nude on VA property. The proposed admonishment stated that, as a **(b)(6)**, **(b)(6)** should be a role model and conduct himself in a professional manner at all times, especially during duty time and on government premises.

(b)(6) was charged with misconduct and conduct unbecoming a Federal employee for hiring the dancers. The proposed admonishment given to him stated that his conduct violated the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch and the principles of the "Medical Center Values." The proposed admonishment further stated that **(b)(6)** conduct was not acceptable and was "detrimental to the maintenance of discipline, employee morale, good conduct and mission accomplishment."

(b)(6) was charged with disrespectful conduct and misstatement of material fact in connection with an investigation. The proposed admonishment stated that her behavior was unacceptable and "detrimental to the maintenance of discipline, employee morale, good conduct and mission accomplishment."

We believe the managers and employees involved in orchestrating and videotaping this incident showed poor judgement. They not only exhibited disregard for the embarrassment of their fellow employees, they gave no consideration to the potential damage the Medical Center and VA would suffer should this incident become public.

We discussed the matter with Medical Center management and they assured us that the proposed administrative actions against **(b)(6)**, **(b)(6)**, and **(b)(6)** would be accomplished. We will follow-up until all the proposed actions are completed.

(Original signed by)
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