



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

1301 CONSTITUTION AVE
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

DATE: MAY 16, 2018

PREPARED BY: SA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

CASE #: OI-AR-2016-CAC-0035

CROSS REFERENCE #:

TITLE: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) GS-13, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

CASE CLOSING REPORT

Subject(s)	Location	Other Data
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	Washington, DC	REMOVED FROM FEDERAL SERVICE

VIOLATION(S):

US EPA Office of Criminal Enforcement, Forensics, and Training Conduct Policy,
OCEFT-P-003

XI. INTEGRITY-RELATED MISCONDUCT

- (d) Employees shall not engage, on or off duty, in criminal, infamous, violent, dishonest or notoriously disgraceful conduct, or any other conduct prejudicial to the government or that will adversely impact the reputation of OCEFT.
- (ii) Employees will not make false, misleading, incomplete, or ambiguous statements, whether oral or written, in connection with any matter of official interest. Matters of official interest include but are not limited to: transactions with the public, employees of other government agencies or fellow employees, application forms and other forms that serve as a basis for appointment, reassignment, promotion or other personnel actions, vouchers, leave records and time and attendance records, work reports of any nature or accounts of any kind, affidavits or statements in a disciplinary matter or an internal or other official investigation, or entry or record of any matter relating to or connected with an employee's duties.
- (iii) When directed by competent authority, employees must truthfully and fully testify, provide information or respond to questions (under oath when required) concerning matters of official interest.

RESTRICTED INFORMATION

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- (iv) Lack of candor by any OCEFT employees in any matter of official interest is very serious and undermines the public trust, in fact any Special Agent found to have engaged in a lack of candor regarding a matter of official interest may be removed from the Federal service.

EPA's Appendix-Guidance on Corrective Discipline, EPA ORDER 3120.1

16. Deliberate misrepresentation, falsification, concealment or withholding of a material fact, or refusal to testify or cooperate in an official proceeding.

ALLEGATIONS:

1. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) made misleading and incomplete statements in connection with a matter of official interest - **SUPPORTED**

FINDINGS:

On November 21, 2014, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Inspector General (OIG), Hotline received an electronic message and voicemail, Hotline Complaint # 2015-039, from unknown sources who made an allegation of professional misconduct by (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

The allegation of misconduct occurred while (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) was serving as the (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

On July 29, 2013, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) were observed passionately kissing and engaged in intimate, physical contact at a nightclub in (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) by two other EPA employees.

This investigation revealed (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) exchanged a series of sexually and romantically suggestive text messages with each other.

After being confronted with the text messages, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) stated that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) had developed romantic feelings for each other. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) further admitted that the text messages were (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) inappropriate.

During two interviews regarding the allegations, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) made misleading and incomplete statements to OIG agents.

DISPOSITION: Supported, Removed from Federal Service

The allegation that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) made misleading and incomplete statements in connection with a matter of official interest was supported. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) was interviewed on two occasions by OIG special agents.

During the first interview, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) concealed and misled the investigators as to the true nature of (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) relationship with (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), who at the time was (b) (6), (b) (7)(C).

This investigation substantiated that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) was not forthright with investigators about the true nature of (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) relationship with (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) provided conflicting, misleading, and incomplete statements with respect to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) relationship with (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), and only admitted to the relationship after confronted with evidence indicating an on-going romantic relationship at that time.

On (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) 2017, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) was removed from Federal Service for Lack of Candor.

As a result, this investigation is considered closed.