DON’T BE TEMPTED
ABOUT THE OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

WHO ARE WE?
Each Federal agency has an independent Office of Inspector General (OIG) charged with conducting objective audits and investigations, as well as preventing and detecting fraud, waste, and abuse. Within the NASA OIG, the Office of Investigations handles allegations of wrongdoing involving organizations or individuals that receive awards from, conduct business with, or work with NASA.

WHAT DO WE DO?
We investigate allegations in which NASA is the potential victim of fraud, waste, or abuse by employees, grantees, contractors, or others. We receive allegations from many sources, including proposal reviewers, Agency employees, the OIG hotline, and the public. We also handle all allegations of research misconduct involving Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR) proposals and awards.
WHAT IS BRIBERY?

Under the bribery law, at 18 U.S.C. § 201(b), an executive branch employee may not demand, seek, receive, accept, or agree to accept anything of value “in return for being influenced in the performance of any official act.” The bribery law is often compared to two other criminal provisions:

Under 18 U.S.C. § 201(c), the illegal gratuities statute, an employee may not demand, seek, receive, accept, or agree to accept anything of value “for or because of any official act” performed or to be performed by the employee.

Under 18 U.S.C. § 209, the supplementation of salary statute, an employee may not receive any salary or supplementation of salary from any person other than the Government as compensation for services as a Government employee.
The OIG, in conjunction with the U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE), investigates allegations or suspicions of bribery as it pertains to NASA. The OIG refers bribery allegations that have merit to the U.S. Department of Justice for potential prosecution. Government officials, contractors, and individuals involved in bribery schemes risk going to prison; paying restitution, fines, penalties; and loss of employment.

- Government inspectors at a job site notice a pattern of preferential contractor treatment.
- Government official has a lifestyle that exceeds his or her salary.
- Contract change orders lack sufficient justification.
- Oversight officials socialize or have business relationships with a contractor or a contractor’s family.
- An unnecessary middleman or broker is involved.
- Contracting employee declines promotion to a non-procurement position.
- Contracting employee insists contractors use a certain subcontractor or broker.
- Contracting employee shows a keen interest in the award of a contract on a purchase order to a particular contractor or vendor.
Chakka Fattah, former U.S. Congressman, was convicted in a bribery scheme involving NASA grant funds. Fattah was sentenced to 10 years in prison and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of $615,500.

Two former NASA contracting officers were convicted of charges related to a bribery scheme involving NASA roofing contracts. One contracting officer was sentenced to 3 years probation and fined $5,000. The other contracting officer was ordered to serve 3 years probation and fined $3,000. A roofing company sued in civil court was ordered to pay $3 million in restitution.

The contracting officers resigned their positions with NASA.
NASA OIG HEADQUARTERS
Washington, DC
202-358-1220

AMES RESEARCH CENTER
Moffett Field, CA
650-604-3682 (Investigations)

GLENN RESEARCH CENTER
Cleveland, OH
216-433-5414 (Investigations)
216-433-9714 (Audits)

Goddard Space Flight Center
Greenbelt, MD
301-286-9316 (Investigations)
301-286-6443 (Audits)

Trenton, NJ
609-656-2543 (Investigations)
or 609-656-2545

Jet Propulsion Laboratory
Pasadena, CA
818-354-6630 (Investigations)
818-354-3360 (Audits)

Long Beach Resident Agency
Long Beach, CA
562-951-5485 (Investigations)
or 661-276-2685

This office handles Armstrong Flight Research Center Investigations.
NASA Policy Directive 9800.1B requires NASA employees who observe crime, fraud, waste, abuse, or mismanagement to report the observation or suspicion to the OIG. Likewise, NASA employees, contractors, grantees, programs, partners, and those receiving NASA funds are expected to cooperate fully with the OIG and its designees. To report suspected violations, contact us at one of our office locations or through our Hotline.

**OIG HOTLINE**


[https://oig.nasa.gov/hotline.html](https://oig.nasa.gov/hotline.html)

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