



NASA OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

BRIBERY AND PUBLIC CORRUPTION



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.



BRIBERY

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.



PENALTIES

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.

BRIBERY INDICATORS

- 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.

RECENT BRIBERY AND PUBLIC CORRUPTION SCHEMES INVOLVING NASA FUNDS OR PERSONNEL

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 OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS
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OFFICE LOCATIONS AND PHONE NUMBERS

NASA OIG HEADQUARTERS

Washington, DC
202-358-1500

AMES RESEARCH CENTER

Moffett Field, CA
650-604-2678 (Investigations)

ARMSTRONG FLIGHT RESEARCH CENTER

Edwards Air Force Base, CA
202-358-1001 (Investigations)

GLENN RESEARCH CENTER

Cleveland, OH
216-433-6121 (Investigations)
216-433-9714 (Audits)

GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER

Greenbelt, MD
301-286-9316 (Investigations)
301-286-0497 (Audits)

Trenton, NJ Place of Duty
609-656-2543 or 609-656-2545

JET PROPULSION LABORATORY

Pasadena, CA
202-358-1001 (Investigations)
818-354-9743 (Audits)

JOHNSON SPACE CENTER

Houston, TX
281-483-8427 (Investigations)
281-483-9572 (Audits)

KENNEDY SPACE CENTER

Kennedy Space Center, FL
321-867-4714 (Investigations)
321-867-4719 (Audits)

LANGLEY RESEARCH CENTER

Hampton, VA
757-864-3263 (Investigations)
757-864-8500 (Audits)

MARSHALL SPACE FLIGHT CENTER

Marshall Space Flight Center, AL
256-544-9188 (Investigations)
256-791-2002 (Audits)

ROCKY MOUNTAIN RESIDENT AGENCY

Greenwood Village, CO
202-358-4900 (Investigations)

STENNIS SPACE CENTER

Stennis Space Center, MS
228-688-1493 (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

1-800-424-9183 / TDD: 1-800-535-8134

<https://oig.nasa.gov/hotline.html>

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