

# BRIEFLY...

Highlights of Report Number 09-07-004-01-370, *Grafton Job Corps Center: Allegations that Student Attendance and Training Data were Overstated*, to the National Director, Office of Job Corps, dated September 28, 2007.

## WHY READ THE REPORT

The report discusses the audit results regarding our assessment of a hotline complaint we received on the Grafton Job Corps Center. The Grafton Job Corps Center is operated by Adams and Associates, Inc. (Adams).

## WHY OIG CONDUCTED THE AUDIT

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) received a hotline complaint regarding the Grafton Job Corps Center (Center). The complainant alleged Grafton officials manipulated student accountability data and training records in order to enhance the performance measures of On-Board Strength and Vocational Completions.

Our audit objective was to determine if the allegations had merit. Specifically, we answered the following questions:

Did Grafton officials overstate the Center's On-Board Strength performance measure by violating unpaid administrative leave or absent without leave requirements in the Policy and Requirements Handbook? As a result, did the Center retain students who should have been separated?

Did Grafton officials overstate the Center's Vocational Completions performance measure by graduating students who did not satisfy all training requirements?

## READ THE FULL REPORT

To view the report, including the scope, methodology, and agency response, go to: <http://www.oig.dol.gov/public/reports/oa/2007/09-07-004-01-370.pdf>

## U.S. Department of Labor Office of Inspector General Office of Audit

## WHAT OIG FOUND

We concluded the allegations had merit because Grafton officials had not followed the Policy and Requirements Handbook when showing students in leave status, placing students in absent without leave status, and graduating vocational students. Non-compliance with the Policy and Requirements Handbook directly resulted in overstating both performance measures.

Grafton officials overstated the On-Board Strength performance measure by retaining students who should have been separated. The audit results disclosed a pattern of inappropriately showing students in unpaid administrative leave and absent without leave status. These practices resulted in "extending the stay" of these students by 910 days, and as a result, the Contractor owes liquidated damages totaling \$56,824.

Grafton officials did not materially overstate the Vocational Completions performance measure. However, we identified four students of 34 who were shown as having completed their vocation even though their Training Activity Reports did not support their completion. As a result, students may not have been fully trained for their vocations and they may have received unearned bonuses for vocations not completed.

## WHAT OIG RECOMMENDED

The OIG recommended the Office of Job Corps recover liquidated damages of \$56,824 from Adams; monitor and verify that Grafton officials have taken actions to strengthen the control environment to ensure proper recording of leave, attendance, and vocational completions; and monitor the accuracy of reported performance measures of Adams' operated centers.

## HOW AUDITEE RESPONDED

The Office of Job Corps generally agreed with our recommendations and agreed to do a detailed review of our results and to assess liquidated damages. They also agreed to monitor the Grafton Job Corps Center and other Adams' operated centers.