

BRIEFLY...

Highlights of Report Number 26-09-003-01-370, *Performance Audit of Adams and Associates, Incorporated Job Corps Centers to the National Director, Office of Job Corps.*

WHY READ THE REPORT

This report discusses weaknesses in addressing student misconduct and in performance reporting at three Job Corps Centers operated by Adams and Associates, Incorporated (Adams).

WHY OIG CONDUCTED THE AUDIT

Our audit objectives were to answer the following questions:

1. Did Adams ensure compliance with Job Corps requirements for managing center safety programs?
2. Did Adams ensure compliance with Job Corps requirements for reporting performance?
3. Did Adams ensure compliance with Job Corps requirements for managing and reporting financial activity?

In addition, in response to a hotline complaint, we added an objective:

4. Did a hotline complaint alleging improper management practices pertaining to student misconduct, Career Technical Training (CTT) completions and Work-Based Learning (WBL) at the Shriver Job Corps Center have merit?

Our audit work was conducted at Adams headquarters in Reno, Nevada and Columbia, Maryland; and at the Atterbury Job Corps Center in Edinburgh, Indiana; the Gadsden Job Corps Center in Gadsden, Alabama; and the Shriver Job Corps Center in Devens, Massachusetts.

READ THE FULL REPORT

To view the report, including the scope, methodology, and full agency response, go to:

<http://www.oig.dol.gov/public/reports/oa/2009/26-09-003-01-370.pdf>

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WHAT OIG FOUND

Adams did not consistently ensure compliance with Job Corps requirements for safety in one of three areas tested — student misconduct. At Atterbury, fact-finding boards were not always convened as required for students suspected of serious misconduct, such as threats of violence; and behavior review panels were not convened for students who committed multiple, less serious infractions, such as creating a disturbance. The Atterbury and Gadsden Centers also did not always report significant incidents, such as physical assault, and narcotics possession to Job Corps as required. Consequently, these actions hindered Job Corps' ability to monitor center safety, to ensure significant student misconduct was handled appropriately,

Additionally, Adams had control weaknesses in two of four areas regarding performance reporting – CTT completions and Student Attendance/Accountability. For CTT completions, Adams did not ensure students completed all required training tasks. For Student Attendance/Accountability, Adams did not consistently attempt or document attempts to contact students or their parents (for minor students) when the students were absent without leave (AWOL), and student leave was not supported as required.

Nothing came to our attention to indicate that Adams did not ensure compliance requirements for managing and reporting financial activity.

The allegation at Shriver pertaining to student misconduct had merit as we found problems concerning the convening of boards and panels, and the reporting of significant incidents. The allegations pertaining to CTT completions and WBL programs did not have merit. However, Shriver did not consistently comply with the requirements for CTT completions and for accountability regarding its WBL students.

WHAT OIG RECOMMENDED

We made eight recommendations to the National Director, Office of Job Corps. In summary, we recommended that Job Corps direct Adams seek Job Corps approval before deviating from Job Corps requirements regarding the convening of Fact Finding Boards/Behavior Review Panels and the reporting of significant incidents, and implement corporate oversight procedures, and training to ensure its centers comply with Job Corps requirements in each of the areas we identified control weaknesses (CTT completions, AWOL students, student leave, and WBL).

The Acting National Director, Office of Job Corps fully concurred with four recommendations and concurred-in-part with four recommendations.