



INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT

2007-05-0100

October 23, 2009

INDIANA VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY

Inspector General Staff Attorney Amanda Schaeffer, after an investigation by Special Agent Dave Clark, reports as follows:

In May of 2007, the OIG received a complaint alleging that an Indiana Veteran's Memorial Cemetery ("Cemetery") employee, David Varble ("Varble"), had misused state property and committed ghost employment. Varble was employed at the Cemetery from 1999 through May of 2007. He was a Grounds Foreman and was then promoted to Superintendent. Special Agent Dave Clark was assigned to investigate.

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) has the authority under IC 4-2-7-5 to investigate and file with the State Ethics Commission complaints regarding violations of the Code of Ethics in 42 IAC 1-5. This case involved the use of state property as addressed in 42 IAC 1-5-12.

The Cemetery was dedicated to veterans as a memorial and burial ground for qualified veterans and eligible spouses. The Cemetery has a Ford Expedition vehicle available for use by Cemetery employees for Cemetery business. This was not a take-home vehicle, and Cemetery vehicles were not permitted to use the

vehicle for personal use or take it to their homes. State agencies may authorize the use of state property through written policies under the authority of 42 IAC 1-5-12.

During the investigation, Special Agent Clark conducted interviews with numerous individuals, including Varble.

One witness stated that she had witnessed Varble use the Cemetery Ford Expedition for personal use various times. Special Agent Clark was able to determine various dates on which Varble used the Expedition for activities that were not related to official state business, contrary to 42 IAC 1-5-12.

This case was presented to the State Ethics Commission and a complaint was filed on December 2, 2008. A public hearing on this matter was scheduled for February 12, 2009. When respondent David Varble failed to appear, the OIG moved for a default judgment pursuant to IC 4-21.5-3-24(a)(2). Varble failed to respond to this notice and a hearing was held on the merits of this matter on May 14, 2009, at which the OIG presented evidence in support of the complaint. The SEC defaulted the Respondent pursuant to IC 4-21.5-3-24(a)(2) and imposed a fine against Respondent in the amount of \$498.96.

Dated this 23rd day of October, 2009.

APPROVED BY:



David O. Thomas, Inspector General