

#### U.S. Department of Justice

Office of the Inspector General

# REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

SUBJECT			CASE NUMBER	
United States Marshal				
OFFICE CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION	1	DOJ COMPONENT		
Dallas Field Office (El Paso Area	Office)	United States Marsh	als Service	
DISTRIBUTION	STATUS			
[X] Field Office DFO	OPEN	[] OPEN PENDING F	PROSECUTION [X]	CLOSED
X  AIGINV	PREVIOUS REPORT	T SUBMITTED:	[] YES [X]	NO
[X] Component USMS		Date of Previous Report:		
USA				
[] Other				
		SYNOPSIS		
The Department of Justice Office information from Supervisory De Marshal (USM) (CDUSM) discriming Specifically, alleged that:  • he was transferred to a assignment in supervisory alleged that:  • when he appealed to request for an alternative • he subsequently filed an inthat and and and and and are recessively without justification because he filed a grievance againg 2302(b)(9). Lastly, the OIG also interviews by denying that information to substantiate	and position; and informal grievance retaliated against ated that The OIG also continute threatened to	and Carassed him due to his positive that the move would continuous and a standard harassed included that included that included that included personal and prohibited persona	alleging Chief Deputy United  attion in  reate hardships for he formal grievance in hal filing.  by forcing hi threatened to retali	that United States States Marshal ethnicity.  away from his duty nim, they denied his alleging  and to travel ate against or 5 U.S.C. section their OIG
DATE December 10, 2018	SIGNATURE			11.00
PREPARED BY SPECIAL AGENT				
DATE December 10, 2018	SIGNATURE	ina -	DN: c=US, o=U.S. of Justice, ou=Ol	oy MONTE CASON Government, ou=Dept G. cn=MONTE CASON.
APPROVED BY SPECIAL AGENT IN CH.	ARGE Monte	A. Cason // Londo		00.100.1.1=1500100105



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Counsel for information.				
The OIG has completed it		nd is providing this r	eport to the USMS and to	the Office of Special
During the OIG investigat retired from the US		esigned from his pos	sition as USM	and
During the course of the in action against DUSM concluded that	in res		grievance filing in a separa	took personnel ate incident. The OIG that grievance.

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# ADDITIONAL SUBJECTS

Chief Deputy United States Marshal U.S. Marshals Service

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# **DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION**

### Prodication

Predication					
The Department of Justice Office of information from Supervisory Dep States Marshal (USM)  Marshal (CDUSM)  harassed  due to his  he appealed to  alternative position; and he subsequalleging that	etaliated against ethnicity. So position in that the move wou uently filed an information.	for protected active specifically, away from a lid create hardships	alleg , and Ch vity, and discri- alleged that he his duty assign for him, they o	ing that the United ief Deputy United S minated against and was transferred to a ment in ; when the was transferred to a ment in formal grievance in	tates a hen r an
During the course of the investigat action against DUSM	in response to		and and ing in a separa	took personnel te incident.	
<b>Investigative Process</b>					
The OIG's investigative efforts co	nsisted of the followin	g:			
Interviews of the following USMS	personnel:				
	States Marshal United States Marsha	1			
		The second secon			
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## Review of the following:

- Email records for USM
- Email records for CDUSM
- USMS policies and directives regarding professional development
- USMS Intra-District transfer policy
- USM job description and authority
- · CDUSM job description and authority
- USMS requirements to attend professional leadership training
- · USMS prerequisites to attend professional development training

#### **Position Transfer**

In his complaint to the OIG, stated the following:

had previously allowed several non-supervisor. Since he lived in transferred into the SDUSM position in compete for the SDUSM position with others we competed for and was selected as the SDUSM.	DUSMs to latera approached responded who applied and would no	by telling that he we	o be laterally ould have to
other SDUSMs, for professional development position in to position in position in position in position in was being moved fro transfers were announced, approached want to be transferred to and moved into the position in then approached and provided his reason the same as had provided, and requested was subsequently rotated to the approximately 67 miles each way. Therefore, but and and a formal grievance with USMS	that he was being rotat purposes. was tole while to the SDU om position to the and provided him subsequently and to the oning for not wanting to be ed not to be rotated. osition and required to dri n requested to be allowed is request. later file S regarding and denied his inform	position in with several reasons why he removed from the re SDUSM position in be rotated, which believe daily from to work position from led an informal grievance withis forced rotation and the re-	his SDUSM tated from addition, After the edid not otation and eved were s request, and from the lith

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#### Allegedly Discriminated Against, Retaliated Against, and Harassed and The complaint provided to the OIG alleged that discriminated against and harassed due to his ethnicity. also alleged that and retaliated against him because he filed an informal grievance against them in provided the OIG with an email chain containing emails dated and . In the email, instructed all supervisors that they needed to be physically present at the monthly staff meetings. In his email, stated that, are not required to travel unless I specifically request you travel to the staff meeting. Otherwise you will join via lync from the main office. SDUSM you are required to be physically present in for all meetings." According to and required him to drive from on late Friday afternoons to attend the monthly to told the OIG that often times the management meetings would only last 10 to 15 management meetings. minutes and he would then have to return to , meaning would be traveling more than 120 miles round trip for an extremely short meeting. alleged that he was the only supervisor who was not in who was required to drive to to attend the meetings. explained that he had lync and VTC capabilities to attend the meetings, but and required him to attend the meetings in person. told the OIG that, on or about , after his transfer and the denial of his request to stay in to perform the duties of filed a local informal grievance with position, , seeking to stay in his SDUSM position. and denied informal grievance and required to travel back and forth daily between and told him that the position was assigned to the office and required him to be in the office daily, except when he needed to travel elsewhere for the position. On about , following their denial of his informal grievance, filed a formal grievance with the USMS stating he applied for and was selected as the SDUSM in and did Headquarters in not want to be moved into position. also pointed out that the daily distance he was required to drive each way from was excessive. On received the decision to from USMS in reference to his formal grievance advising him that USM management had the discretion to rotate employees as they saw fit, but agreed with that the distance he was being required to drive daily was neither economical nor cost effective, and granted the ability to work out of the office as Interview of stated that he was initially part of a three-person rotation plan. After During his OIG interview. further thinking about it, said he spoke to and said that he did not want to be rotated to the SDUSM position in said that agreed the exact reasoning he provided to to remove from the rotation. said he later told and for them to remove from the rotation. When asked about the harassment alleged and stated that he never witnessed against harass

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# Interview of

told the OIG that res	confirmed his attendance at an were present in person and attended via teleconference. During the meeting, at he was currently reviewing a formal grievance filed by bonded by saying was, "stabbing the We will take care of once the grievance is done."
	was going to retaliate against because he filed the grievance.
Interview of	
told the OIG that and other supervisors, and that grievance had filed against and the comment that	around said that he met with said he was going to "bury "referring to because of a said he later told about his conversation with allegedly made about said he later told said he later told about his conversation with allegedly made about said he later told said about his conversation with allegedly made about said that he met with said that said that he met with said that said that he met with said that s
Interview of	
meeting with he had talked to about his grievance filing his grievance and that he encouraged decision. Said that respectively grievance or not because he would be treat continued by saying was ungrateful him, including two promotions, training, and and about his grievance or not because he would be treat continued by saying was ungrateful him, including two promotions, training, and and about his grievance or not because he would be treated.	to file a grievance if he did not agree with the rotation onded by telling that it did not matter whether won his ted differently by from this point forward.
statement about said he could not believe that did not recall hearing at a later by and retribution. said he spoke with said he told that he retaliation. told the OIG that threatening retaliation, but instructed complaint, should do so.	told him that his interpretation was the same as and that had comments insinuating retaliation and retribution.  said he time state that he was going to bury a statement attributed to at stated that comments definitely insinuated retaliation to telephonically following comments about insinuated and implied responded that he did not perceive comments as that if felt the need to claim whistleblower status and file a said he told that there was no need to file a complaint because and and had just reported the complaint to
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Interview of
told the OIG that and constantly harassed told the OIG that and continuously ordered to drive from to for supervisor meetings that often lasted no longer than 10 minutes. local task force and was unable to attend a supervisors' meeting, and would allow him to attend the meeting via teleconference.
Interview of
told the OIG that hated According to , did not  "stroke" the egos of and and this may be the reason for their dislike of said  that would schedule supervisor meetings in and require to drive in from  to attend them. Said that when arrived at the office, would sarcastically ask  how his drive was from told the OIG that the majority of the meetings lasted  approximately 5 minutes, and could have attended the meetings via teleconference.
Statement
During his OIG interview, denied that was was rotated due to harassment or retaliation.  explained that after becoming the USM for the instituted a 2-year professional development rotation for all SDUSMs in order to make them more well-rounded employees.
He explained that to ensure the continuity of the mission and so as not to disrupt that mission, and decided not to rotate at that time. In reference to the email below regarding the need to rotate said the words in the email do not reflect his work during the prior years to develop and continue the mission. He added that would also be rotated at some point. Claimed to have had no issue with being able to work the position out of
When questioned about his requiring to drive to to attend management meetings, deferred the answer to to attend all the meetings in
denied making any statements insinuating or threatening retaliation regarding
Statement
told the OIG that every SDUSM was aware of the rotation policy and they support the policy. explained the local rotation policy allows SDUSMs the ability to gain experience in various areas, and that was removed from the rotation
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not ready to rotate him. added that would eventually be rotated. denied that harassment or retaliation motivated rotation.
said that he did not order to attend all meetings held in the interview the OIG was not in possession of the email dated for all meetings, wherein singularly directed to be physically present in position out of for all meetings.
did not recall attending a monthly meeting with and and and in which made comments threatening or insinuating retaliation against for filing a grievance.
Email Review
An OIG review of and emails revealed an email chain dated , between and wherein told that did not want to be transferred from responded to via email, "needs to be rotated out. Let's find someone."
Grievance Official Findings
The USMS Designated Grievance Official (DGO) assigned to formal grievance, found that the lateral reassignment of was within the USMS policy. Accordingly, the DGO found that neither nor discriminated against in making the lateral reassignment.
OIG's Conclusion
The OIG concluded that and harassed beginning in when he was assigned to the office, by requiring to attend staff meetings in while none of the other supervisors were treated similarly. However, the OIG did not find sufficient information to conclude that this harassment was due to race.
The OIG further concluded that, in response to filing of a grievance against him in made retaliatory statements to other supervisors about statements would be treated differently because he filed the grievance. These retaliatory statements violated 5 U.S.C. § 2302(b)(9), which prohibits any employee who has authority from taking, failing to take, or threatening to take or failing to take any personnel action against any employee because of the exercise of any appeal, complaint, or grievance right granted by law, rule, or regulation.
The OIG also concluded that a lacked candor with the OIG when he denied was required to be present in for management meetings, and when denied making a statement threatening or insinuating retaliation against due to his grievance filing, violating USMS Policy Directives, 1.7, Code of Professional Responsibilities, Sub-section F Paragraph 23, 26, 28, 29, and 32 addressing statement of fact, personal activities, conduct, and high standards. In addition, violated USMS Policy Directives, 3.40 Discipline and Adverse Action, Sub-section B, Paragraph 5, addressing failing to provide
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required instructions to subordinates, permitting or requiring actions that violate regulations and/or failing to report allegations of misconduct may result in adverse action against the supervisor or manager. also violated 28 C.F.R. 45.13, addressing duty to cooperate in an official investigation. The OIG concluded that also displayed a lack candor when he stated to the OIG that was not required to be present in for management meetings, and denying made a statement threatening or insinuating retaliation against due to his grievance filing. violated USMS Policy Directives, 1.7, Code of Professional Responsibilities, Sub-section F 32, F Paragraph 23, 26, 28, 29, and 32 addressing statement of fact, personal activities, conduct, and high standards. violated USMS Policy Directives, 3.40 Discipline and Adverse Action, Sub-section B, Paragraph 5, addressing failing to provide required instructions to subordinates, permitting or requiring actions that violate regulations and/or failing to report allegations of misconduct may result in adverse action against the supervisor or manager. violated 28 C.F.R. 45.13, addressing duty to cooperate in an official investigation. The OIG further concluded that, in requiring to work out of the office in violated USM Service Travel Policy Manual, Chapter 301-Temporary Duty (TDY) Travel Allowances, 301-2.5.3, Authorizing Officials' Responsibilities, by unilaterally ordering to commute in his GOV in excess of 120 miles each day from his residence to his place of duty, which constitutes an inefficient management of travel and a waste of government resources. and also violated Office of Personnel Management Policy 550.703, which defines commuting area as, "The Geographic area surrounding a work site that encompasses the localities where people live and reasonably can be expected to live and reasonably be expected to travel back and forth daily to work as established by the employing agency based on the generally held expectations of the local community." Allegedly Retaliated Against During the course of our review of allegations, the OIG learned from about alleged retaliation by and against DUSM told the OIG about an incident and an unidentified local Task Force Officer (TFO) assigned to the USMS office involving , the TFO, and others were involved in a shooting during a warrant roundup for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). The TFO fired his weapon during a particular arrest operation. According to wanted to hold accountable for a failure to follow proper procedure because he believed the TFO should not have been involved in the roundup since the TFO was not an officially sworn and deputized USMS task force officer. As a result, sent a referral to USMS Office of Internal Affairs (OIA) reporting misconduct. USMS OIA returned the complaint to the for investigation, and found that violated Directive 11-002: State and Local Warrants Misdemeanor Warrants, due to the Police Department officers not being listed on the operational plan. told us that when he arrived in the USMS to review the evidence and findings in the case against said he told that he did not believe there was enough evidence to suggest that committed any misconduct and that would grieve a finding of misconduct and any resulting discipline. thought told and that wanted to receive a suspension for his actions and that if filed an appeal and prevailed, that decision belonged to someone else. Page 10 Case Number:



explained that based on decision, proposed a 14-day suspension for human, but later reduced the suspension to 10 days. Utilizing the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, later grieved decision to the USMS OIA. grievance was upheld by the suspension, which he had already served, was overturned, and he was paid his lost salary for the days he did not work due to the suspension.
said that within an hour of receiving news that prevailed in his grievance, and/or advising that until further notice, was restricted to the USMS and could not participate in any enforcement actions unless accompanied by a SDUSM. Despite attempts to locate the e-mail and contact other SDUSMs in the state of the details of the document.
told the OIG that he was upset because he had won his grievance and it was determined that did not do anything wrong, but was still punishing him, and therefore called the . After hearing of situation, called and told him that neither nor could issue such an instruction restricting activities.
confirmed to the OIG generally that and were the subject of numerous complaints.
Statement
When interviewed by the OIG, said was placed on desk duty because he invited a part-time officer to assist during an ATF operation in explained acted outside of his authority by inviting the officer to assist.
Statement
During his OIG interview, confirmed initial suspension and stated that during the grievance process had not been allowed to work enforcement. After prevailed in his grievance appeal, continued to be restricted from working enforcement activities. said that after contacted the USMS Ombudsman, he was allowed to return to enforcement activities, but only with another law enforcement officer present.
OIG's Conclusion
The OIG concluded both and and retaliated against by taking a personnel action against him for filing a grievance, in violation of 5 U.S.C. § 2302(b)(9).
During the OIG investigation resigned from his position as the USM for the and retired from the USMS
The OIG has completed its investigation and is providing this report to the USMS and to the Office of the Special Counsel for information.
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