

U.S. Department of Justice

Office of the Inspector General

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

SUBJECT					CASE NUMBER		
Unit Chi	ef (retired)		52				
	onducting in ton Field Of	ivestigation fice		Federal Bureau of I	nvestigation		
washington ricid Office			Ť.				
DISTRIBU	TION		STATUS				
	Field Office	WFO	□ OPEN	□ OPEN PENDING	PROSECUTION	\boxtimes	CLOSED
	AIGINV		PREVIOUS REPOR	T SUBMITTED:	□ YES	\boxtimes	NO
	Component	FBI		Date of Previous Report:			
	USA						
	Other						
				SYNOPSIS			
an intervent Temporative The intervent The OIC	of information a then was view panel, ary Duty (TI denied having relationship and that during and that during the conclusionship are conclusionship and that during the conclusionship are conclusionship and the conclusionship are conclusionship at the conclusionship at the conclusionship are conclusionship at the conclusionshi	n from the Fed a Unit Chief (Unit Chief (U	deral Bureau of In JC) improper intimat Additional a which resulte ties. e relationship with amended her state	during an interest and admitted the that maintaine tricipated as an interv	subordinate, included hi notion, and favor erview with the nat she had, in fa	on, alles	eging that ct involvement in for under oath. After aintained an
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APPROVE	APPROVED BY SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE RUSSELL CUNNINGHAM						



FBI employees interviewed during the course of the investigation told the OIG of rumors and behavior by and that indicated an improper relationship, including sharing food and drinks; inappropriate physical contact in public; spending time in each other's hotel rooms during TDY travel; and spending extended amounts of time together.
During a voluntary OIG interview under oath, denied being in a relationship with while she was working under his supervision. However, shortly after the interview concluded and she departed from the OIG office, called the OIG and stated she wished to amend her statement. Later that same day, during a subsequent voluntary interview. admitted she had engaged in an improper relationship with She further stated the relationship began before her promotion.
During a voluntary OIG interview under oath, while she was his subordinate. Stated the relationship began in promoted and promoted are promoted as a puring a voluntary phone interview later the same day, after investigators asked him if the relationship began in promoted and promoted and promoted and promoted are promoted as a puring a voluntary phone interview later the same day, after investigators asked him if the relationship began in promoted and promoted are promoted as a puring a voluntary phone interview later the same day, after investigators asked him if the relationship began in promoted and promoted are promoted as a puring a voluntary phone interview later the same day, after investigators asked him if the relationship began in promoted are promoted as a puring a voluntary phone interview later the same day, after investigators asked him if the relationship began in promoted are promoted as a puring a voluntary phone interview later the same day, after investigators asked him if the relationship began in promoted are promoted as a puring a voluntary phone interview later the same day, after investigators asked him if the relationship began in promoted are promoted as a puring a voluntary phone interview later the same day, after investigators asked him if the relationship began in promoted are promoted as a puring a voluntary phone interview later the same day, after investigators asked him if the relationship began in promoted are promoted as a puring a voluntary phone interview later the same day, after investigators asked him if the relationship began in promoted are promoted as a puring a voluntary phone interview later the same day.
The OIG determined violated the FBI's policy and federal ethics regulations by participating in interview panel and acting as the selecting official for her promotion. Additionally, the OIG concluded that preferential treatment of in delegating work assignments and providing travel opportunities violated federal ethics regulations.
retired while the OIG investigation was pending.
The OIG has completed its investigation and is providing this report to the FBI for appropriate action.
Unless otherwise noted, the OIG applies the preponderance of the evidence standard in determining whether DOJ personnel have committed misconduct. The Merit Systems Protection Board applies this same standard when reviewing a federal agency's decision to take adverse action against an employee based on such misconduct. See 5 U.S.C. § 7701(c)(1)(B); 5 C.F.R. § 1201.56(b)(1)(ii).

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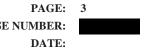


ADDITIONAL SUBJECTS



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DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

Predication

The Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) initiated this is receipt of information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Inspection Divides a then Unit Chief (UC) was engaged in an improper relationship with a subordinate, Additional allegations against included his direct in panel, held in which resulted in promotion, and favoring (TDY) opportunities.	
Investigative Process	
The OIG's investigative efforts consisted of the following:	
Interviews of the following FBI personnel:	
Unit Chief (retired)	
Review of the following:	
 Documents and notes related to E-mails provided by 	
Background	
retired from the FBI retirement, was Unit Chief	. At the time of his

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Improper Relationship with and Favoritism Toward a Subordinate

improper Relationship with and ravoritism roward a Subordinate
The information provided to the OIG alleged was engaged in an improper intimate relationship with a subordinate was directly involved in an interview panel, held in which resulted in promotion and that he also favored for TDY opportunities.
The FBI's Personal Relationship Policy, Policy Directive 0802D, states: "FBI employees must not engage in personal relationships which negatively affect their ability to conduct their official duties or which otherwise adversely affect the FBI's mission."
The FBI's Personal Relationship Policy, Policy Directive 0802D, subsection 6.1.2.2. states: "An employee must: Report the development of a romantic or intimate relationship—even though the relationship is not prohibited—with another employee in the same unit or squad or with an employee with whom a supervisory relationship exists, so that management may determine whether remedial action, such as reassignment, is necessary to prevent interference with the FBI's mission."
The FBI's Personal Relationship Policy, Policy Directive 0802D, subsection 6.1.2.3. states: "An employee must: Refrain—without specific, advance management approval—from participating in a hiring or organizational decision involving an individual with whom he or she has a personal relationship and where a reasonable person would question the employee's impartiality."
The FBI's Personal Relationship Policy, Policy Directive 0802D, subsection 6.2.1.2. states: "A manager or supervisor must not: Disrupt workplace morale by pursuing or engaging in a romantic or intimate relationship with a subordinate by, for example, showing favoritism to the subordinate through vehicle or work assignments, promotions, advancements, appraisals, training opportunities, or travel opportunities."
In addition, the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Executive Branch Employees state than an employee "shall not use his public office for his own private gain or for the private gain of friends, relatives, or persons with whom the employee is affiliated in a nongovernmental capacity." 5 C.F.R. § 2635.702. Section 2635.702(d) further provides that "[t]o ensure that the performance of his official duties does not give rise to an appearance of use of public office for private gain or of giving preferential treatment, an employee whose duties would affect the financial interests of a friend, relative or person with whom he is affiliated in a nongovernmental capacity shall comply with any applicable requirements of § 2635.502. Section 2635.502 describes a mechanism by which an employee is supposed to consult with his supervisors or ethics officials to determine whether he should participate in a particular matter when there are circumstances that raise a question regarding his impartiality. 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(a)(2).
Pursuant to Deputy Attorney General Rod J. Rosenstein's Memorandum for Heads of Department Components, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct, dated April 30, 2018, the Department of Justice has a zero-tolerance policy with respect to harassment, including sexual harassment.
During his OIG interview, stated that during supervisor conferences, he observed and touch each other in a suggestive manner; share food and beverages; and stay in hotel rooms close to each other.

was the hiring official for the hiring board when , as well as her promotion from

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was promoted

from

told the OIG that



position. Additionally, believed selected for numerous TDY assignments and travel over multiple other volunteers.
During his OIG interview, said he heard from multiple individuals that and were involved in a romantic relationship. Before promotion from the field" was that would be given the position. heard others comment and that was "golden girl." During tenure te
observed several instances that he believed indicated an improper relationship existed. and frequently went out to lunch together; assisted with a "car swap" of government vehicles, which viewed as unusual due to the distance between and residences; during final year with the FBI, he was unnecessarily present whenever participated in an on-site visit at a field office; and although was not in a supervisory role, she was initially included in a supervisor conference that
During her OIG interview, Although was a Unit Chief , was not directly in his chain of command.
While was supervising, she was aware of the rumors of a romantic relationship between and but the did not address the potential relationship with because she did not see anything that "crossed the line." However, acknowledged "the perception was there." said that during her tenure as supervisor she felt that she could not deny because would specifically request presence.
stated that before selection for position, there were rumors that would receive the promotion. Additionally, reached out to selected for the promotion. In response, reached out to the position was spoken for. After was selected, informed that had interviewed well.
During TDY travel, noticed and typically flew together and they were often together at the TDY location. recalled that someone had showed her a photograph of eating together and drinking out of the same glass; however, did not recall any specific details of the photograph.
noted many employees, including employees assigned to field offices, questioned and relationship because they often went out for lunch together and workspace, which was located in a different building. Additionally, and publicly
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recalled that on one occasion a "lovers' quarrel" in a conference room although was not yet in a supervisory role, she was initially included in a supervisor conference in found to be inappropriate; conference.	
recalled that, who was an interview panel member for the SPS position was selected for, confided in her that he felt another candidate was a more appropriate choice. , reviewed the documents related to promotion to ensure the scores were added properly. She did not see anything inappropriate during her review.	
During a TDY assignment familiar with each other, drinking from the same glasses and touching each other. During a group dinner, which mother attended, observed and sitting unusually close to each other. also overheard and mother discuss a pre-planned trip seemed uncomfortable and declined to accompany them to the zoo.	No.
had a conversation with to told her that he felt unfairly received her promotion due to her relationship with Additionally, told that there was a photograph of entering encouraged both individuals to report their concerns.	1
During her OIG interview, said that she was aware that there were rumors of an improper relationship between and She stated that was rumored to be "predatory" toward female personnel and they needed to "show [their] boobs or sleep with him" to progress in their careers. was not aware of the photograph referred to, but stated that , informed her that she possessed photographs of and sharing drinks and food from the same glasses and plates. did not view the photographs that allegedly possessed.	
During his OIG interview, told the OIG that after promotion and before her promotion to a site review conducted by FBI assert an e-mail to several personnel stating that assert as possible. Following this assignment, assert an e-mail to several personnel stating that assert as possible. In the field and that she should be stated that he and some of his colleagues thought e-mail was unusual and without foundation.	
was a member of the interview panel that promoted to the position felt that another applicant for scored and equally, but he preferred expressed his preference to the other members of the panel, and In response, expressed his preference for Additionally, before selection, was aware that rumors were circulating	
that she would be chosen for the position. However, in spite of his preference for felt was qualified for the position.	

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Over time, saw evidence of an improper relationship. When started working walked her around the office and introduced her to staff. did not typically do this for other employees. and frequently went to lunch together. often gave rides to work engagements which he did not do for other employees. In addition, during on-site visits spent time alone with While on TDY travel, observed that and ate and drank from the same plate and cup. At one point, asked to submit a cash award for which felt was deserved but also thought was an unusual request from a second line supervisor.
noted many people questioned the nature of and relationship. During on-site reviews at field offices, field personnel asked about the rumored romantic relationship between and and, in response, encouraged them to report the suspected conduct. heard from that saw smack on the buttocks. also heard from that during a TDY often saw and together at a bar.
Based on his observations and rumors he heard, attempted to address the existence and appearance of an improper relationship between and spoke to about the improper relationship on two occasions, which denied both times. After second conversation with their relationship "tanked" and spoke to spoke t
attempted to bring the allegations of the improper relationship to the attention of After a dinner during which and tended to be flirtatious. And at one point, after sent an e-mail to directing him and forwarded the e-mail to stating the following:
He's been trying to convince to go for a few weeks. She said no twice to plain old invitations. A couple of weeks ago, after we visited we were all at lunch (with her unexpectedly included), he made comments about not having a drinking buddy on the trip this time around. He said this since none of the would be there, was no longer a supervisor and would therefore not be there, and is no longer in the unit. Now there's a rouse afoot to cover her attendance that doesn't even pass the straight-face test.
No other non-supervisory operations have gone to the first year on the job. and never attended; has legitimate financial matters to discuss, so I understand her going. But here we have another classic example of what makes people stop and say, "where there's smoke"
During his OIG interview, stated it was common belief that and were involved in a relationship. during a conference witnessed squeezing leg, above her knee, and touching her buttocks. responded by laughing, giggling and acting flirtatious. reported this to his direct supervisor, during a site visit observed and consuming food and drinks from each other's plates and cups. was informed by that had tearfully told her that

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relayed this information to
noted that it was well known within that made selections for positions outside of the normal human resources methods. Was familiar with at least three occasions on which employees were advised not to apply for a position because had already made a decision on a selection. In one instance, was advised not to apply for a position to apply for a position position position and the individual he was advised about was, in fact, selected.
During his OIG interview, participated in the hiring panel that ultimately selected confirmed that was the hiring official and was the other panel participant. recalled that even though selecting official, he did not witness any impropriety related to selection.
stated that he had not seen anything inappropriate between and , but he had heard many rumors. stated the had not seen anything inappropriate between and , but he had heard many stated he approached regarding the appearance of an improper relationship between him and however, denied the relationship. did not take further action, such as report his concerns to the FBI's Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR). At one point, approached and expressed concerns of a potential improper relationship between and recommended contact OPR.
heard that when on TDY status, and often ate and rode together; however did not find it unusual that they would car pool or travel on the same flights as this was common practice when traveling as a unit. Felt that in general was an appropriate selection for the TDY assignments in which she participated.
During his OIG interview, was unfamiliar with specific rumors regarding a relationship between and . However, during a . he overheard comments from attendees regarding and arriving together. notified of the comments and recommended relay the information to . When informed stated there were "a lot of rumors out there." was uncertain if was referring to specific or general rumors.
During his OIG interview, stated when was selected for position, she was "head and tails above" the other candidates based on her experience and knowledge. after learning about a potential relationship between and confronted him about the relationship and reinforced that a relationship with a subordinate was prohibited. denied the relationship.
During a voluntary OIG interview under oath, denied that she was or had been involved in an improper intimate relationship with stated she discussed applying for position with who, along with and, encouraged her to apply. Stated no one from promotional interview panel, consisting of discussed the results with her.
In response to allegations and observations made by colleagues in relation to TDY assignments,

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that accompanied her and her mother to the zoo during a TDY assignment also denied that grabbed her leg or groped her buttocks during TDY travel and further stated that an ever touched her inappropriately. She acknowledged it was possible that she shared food and drinks with anyone. During a TDY assignment are entered and hotel room to pick him up for a happy hour event because their rooms were on the same floor. At one point, decided not to attend a supervisor conference attend a supervisor conference attend a supervisor of favoritism.
During a voluntary OIG interview under oath, admitted to the OIG that he was involved in an improper intimate relationship with According to the relationship began after began her tenure began her tenure assignments he performed with a were for legitimate purposes, they were also romantically engaged during some trips.
In response to the allegation that he had circumvented because became disengaged . In addition, did not trust judgment and decision making.
stated he and were not in a sexual relationship before her interview for position. As the selecting official, he determined was the most qualified for position only after her interview. was certain there was a discussion between the panel members after interview, similar to every other interview, but did not recall the specific content of the conversation. However, he recalled stated he was surprised at how well performed during the interview.
acknowledged that he was aware his relationship with was against FBI policy, and he never reported the relationship. He recalled that at different points in time, colleagues confronted him regarding his relationship with her. When spoke to regarding the rumors, and did not respond. recalled informed him that was making statements about and but himself did not confront. And at one point, counseled about the perception that he was involved in an improper relationship with but denied the relationship.
After the OIG obtained statement that her relationship with began , which conflicted with statement that the relationship began , the OIG called During the call, stated it was likely the relationship began and that he had misremembered the dates. acknowledged that based on this timeline, he was in a relationship with position, but stated their relationship had no impact on her selection.

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told the OIG that although was her second line supervisor, he tasked her directly because was periodically absent for professional or personal reasons. regarding the direct taskings from but she was not always able to due to his absences. gossiped about his perception of a relationship between her and
speculated that rumors regarding her relationship with with each other and they frequently went out to lunch together. However, she did not feel that they were inappropriately friendly. At one point, told that they had counseled him about the appearance of an improper relationship. In response, they agreed to be more inclusive of unit members during lunch outings.
Shortly after first OIG interview concluded and she had departed the OIG office, called the OIG and stated she wished to amend her statement. Later that same day, returned to the OIG office and was placed under oath again. then admitted she had been in a relationship with since, which was before her promotion said that despite their personal relationship, all of the work travel she had taken with had legitimate FBI business purposes. said that before she applied for position, she did not discuss the selection process with said that she was promoted based on merit and did not have an advantage because of her romantic relationship with said that she was promoted based on merit and did not have an advantage because of her romantic relationship with said that she was promoted based on merit and did not have an advantage because of her romantic relationship with said that she was promoted based on merit and did not have an advantage because of her romantic relationship with said that she was promoted based on merit and did not have an advantage because of her romantic relationship with said that she was promoted based on merit and did not have an advantage because of her romantic relationship with said that she was promoted based on merit and did not have an advantage because of her romantic relationship with said that she was promoted based on merit and did not have an advantage because of her romantic relationship with said that she was promoted based on merit and did not have an advantage because of her romantic relationship with said that she was promoted based on merit and did not have an advantage because of her romantic relationship with said that she was promoted based on merit and did not have an advantage because of her romantic relationship with said that she was promoted based on merit and did not have an advantage because of her romantic relationship with said that she was promoted based on merit and did not have an advantage because of her romantic relationship with said that she was promoted by the sa
OIG's Conclusion
The OIG investigation concluded that engaged in an improper relationship with a subordinate in his chain of command, in violation of the FBI's Personal Relationship Policy, Policy Directive 0802D, subsections 6.1.2.2 and 6.2.1.2., and that he failed to report their relationship. Personal Relationship Policy, Policy Directive 0802D, subsection 6.2.1.2., by showing favoritism to a subordinate through work assignments, promotions, advancements, appraisals, training opportunities, or travel opportunities while in a romantic relationship with that subordinate.
Additionally, participated in the hiring panel that promoted in violation of the FBI's

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as both a member of the interview panel and as the

Personal Relationship Policy, Policy Directive 0802D, subsection 6.1.2.3. which states that FBI employees must refrain from participating in a hiring or organizational decision involving an individual with whom he or she has a personal relationship and where a reasonable person would question the employee's impartiality.

participation in the decision to promote

selecting official, and his preferential treatment of in delegating work assignments and in providing travel opportunities also violated the federal ethics regulations regarding misuse of position. 5 C.F.R. § 2635.702. Moreover, before participating in the decision to promote was under an affirmative obligation to consult with his supervisor or ethics official regarding the appearance of partiality that his participation in such a decision would create.

The OIG acknowledges that the FBI's Personal Relationships Policy places an equal obligation on both supervisors and subordinates.

In a recently

issued Management Advisory Memorandum, the OIG has stated that it will no longer name subordinates as subjects in investigations of this nature and will not make findings of misconduct against the subordinates solely for failing to report a romantic or intimate relationship. Management Advisory Memorandum of Concerns Identified in the Handling of Supervisor-Subordinate Relationships Across DOJ Components, Investigations 20-035, March 10, 2020 (https://oig.justice.gov/reports/2020/i20035.pdf).

The OIG has completed its investigation and is providing this report to the FBI for appropriate action.

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