



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of the Inspector General

December 20, 2012

The Honorable Joseph I. Lieberman
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
706 Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman and Senator Collins:

I am writing to inform you about the Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Inspector General's investigation into the activities of three Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Special Agents stationed in Cartagena, Colombia.

As you might recall, in May 2012, we became aware of allegations that DEA agents in Colombia facilitated a sexual encounter between a Colombian woman and a Supervisory Special Agent with the U.S. Secret Service who was on assignment there. Shortly thereafter, we provided a briefing to you and your staff regarding the initiation of our investigation, and subsequently, we provided further status updates as the investigation progressed. We have completed our investigation into the matter involving the three agents, and enclosed you will find a summary of our findings.

In addition, in the course of our investigation, we determined that State Department policy describes prostitution as "notoriously disgraceful conduct[,] and prohibits solicitation of prostitutes by U.S. government personnel assigned to a foreign mission "irrespective of whether prostitution is legal in the host country[.]" We will be evaluating DOJ's security and training policies for its employees assigned to foreign missions in light of this State Department policy, and we intend to make recommendations, as necessary, to DOJ following our evaluation.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Chief of Staff, Jay Lerner, at (202) 514-3435.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael E. Horowitz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "M" and "H".

Michael E. Horowitz
Inspector General

Enclosure

cc: Michele M. Leonhart
Administrator
Drug Enforcement Administration

Summary of the Findings of Investigation of Three DEA Agents in Colombia

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) conducted an investigation of allegations that Special Agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) stationed in Cartagena, Colombia facilitated a sexual encounter between a Colombian woman and a Supervisory Special Agent with the U.S. Secret Service (USSS) who was on assignment there. The OIG investigation determined that, while at the residence of one of the DEA agents (DEA agent #1), the USSS agent agreed to pay a woman for a massage and thereafter engaged in a sexual act with the woman, and that another of the DEA agents (DEA agent #2) facilitated the encounter and the payment of the woman after the encounter. While DEA agent #3 was present for a dinner that took place earlier that evening with the USSS agent and the other two DEA agents, he was not present in the residence when the sexual encounter took place and played no role in facilitating it.

The three DEA Special Agents initially denied knowledge of any DEA personnel in Columbia being involved in securing sexual services for the USSS agent in exchange for money. However, when confronted with evidence, including witness statements and the OIG's forensic analysis of their DEA issued Blackberry devices, DEA agent #2 admitted his role in facilitating the encounter which lead to the sexual act involving the USSS agent, while DEA agent #1 stated that he was intoxicated on the night of the encounter and was unable to recall specifically his involvement. Despite initial denials to the contrary, all three DEA agents eventually admitted that they, themselves, had paid for sexual services and used their DEA Blackberry devices to arrange such activities. All three DEA agents possessed high-level security clearances.

The OIG investigation found further that all three DEA agents had deleted data from their DEA issued Blackberry devices, and that DEA agents #1 and #2 did so after learning of the scope and nature of the OIG's investigation. DEA agent #1 admitted to the OIG that he deleted relevant data from his Blackberry after being requested to surrender his device to the OIG. DEA agent #2 stated that he "wiped" all data from his Blackberry before providing it to the OIG, but denied that he intended to obstruct the OIG investigation. He stated that he wiped all data from his Blackberry in an effort to conceal embarrassing communications between him and his wife.

The investigation was an administrative review and all of the interviews of the DEA agents were compelled. Given all of the facts and circumstances, we did not view the matter to warrant criminal prosecution. Nevertheless, because of the evidence of false statements and actions that obstructed the OIG's investigation, the OIG presented the matter to the appropriate U.S. Attorney's Office, which declined to initiate legal proceedings. We concurred in that decision. On September 17, 2012, the OIG referred this matter to the DEA for action it determines to be appropriate.