

PEACE CORPS OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



Biennial Report to Congress Section 2, §8E(d)(1)(A) Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act

November 2012

SUMMARY

On November 21, 2011, the President signed into law the Kate Puzey Peace Corps Volunteer Protection Act of 2011¹ (Kate Puzey Act), which enhances Volunteer safety and security and the Peace Corps' response to Volunteer victims of sexual assault. This report complies with section 2, section 8E (d)(1)(A) of the Kate Puzey Act.²

This report identifies complaints or allegations received by OIG between November 21, 2011 and September 30, 2012, which meet the legislative reporting criteria pursuant to the Kate Puzey Act. Information for each complaint includes the region where the allegation occurred, the type of allegation, an allegation summary, a determination if there had been any breaches of confidentiality, a description of any actions taken to assure the safety of Volunteers providing complaints or allegations, and the outcome/disposition.

Since November 21, 2011, the Investigation Unit received 244 complaints. Twenty six of those complaints were received from Volunteers regarding Peace Corps staff as they pertain to the Kate Puzey Act reporting criteria (see Table 1 below). Twenty-one allegations involved matters in which no actions were taken to assure the safety of Volunteers. In such cases the agency determined that no action was necessary or feasible because the Volunteers involved had already left the country, closed their service, or remained anonymous.

Table 1: Breakdown of Allegations Received from Volunteers about Staff.

| Allegation Type | Received | Resolved |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|
| Mismanagement | 20 | 17 |
| Misconduct | 5 | 3 |
| Policy violation | 0 | 0 |
| Breach of Confidentiality | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 26 | 21 |

¹ P.L. 112-57

² Under this section OIG is mandated to "...submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report, not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section, and biennially through September 30, 2018, on reports received from volunteers relating to misconduct, management, or policy violations of Peace Corps staff, any breaches of the confidentiality of volunteers, and any actions taken to assure the safety of volunteers who provide such reports."

OIG receives allegations or complaints through the OIG Hotline³, through contact with Peace Corps trainees/Volunteers, staff or other interested parties, or through OIG audits and evaluations. The complaints are transmitted by Peace Corps staff, Volunteers, returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs), family of Volunteers, or the general public. The OIG Investigation Unit determines whether or not the facts and circumstances of the complaints give rise to a criminal or administrative violation, and if appropriate, refer cases for criminal prosecution or to agency management for action. Investigations are conducted under the direction and guidance of the assistant inspector general for investigations and in accordance with the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended (5 U.S.C. App 3).

OIG is committed to reviewing all complaints, allegations, or concerns and giving them serious consideration. OIG will treat all allegations, complaints, and other information received with the utmost discretion, and the identity of individuals reporting the information will not be disclosed without their consent, unless the inspector general determines such disclosure is unavoidable during the course of an investigation.

In coordination with the Office of Safety and Security (SS), the Office of Medical Services (OMS), country directors (CDs) and other offices, as appropriate, OIG documents actions taken to assure the safety of Volunteers providing complaints or allegations. Additionally, when conducting investigative activity OIG regularly evaluates the safety of Volunteers who provide complaints, or allegations. These actions are necessary, because a Volunteer's safety and security may be at risk as a result of providing reports, allegations, or information to the agency or to OIG.

Consistent with its strategic plan, OIG has established an Outreach Committee (OC) to engage with staff and Volunteers on the role of OIG. The OC, with the support of the Peace Corps' Office of Communications, has also developed an awareness campaign to ensure that applicants, Volunteers, and Peace Corps staff are educated on the role of OIG and how to report allegations or other information to OIG, including reporting allegations confidentially or anonymously. Volunteers now receive information about OIG throughout the Volunteer lifecycle, from the application stage through the time they close their service. A sample of these materials is included in Appendix A.

³ The Hotline includes various methods to contact OIG including a phone number, fax line, email address, Post Office box, and web form found at www.peacecorps.gov/ContactOIG. The OIG web form includes a method for reporting allegations and information anonymously.

METHODOLOGY

The Investigation Unit tracks incoming complaints and recently enhanced its tracking system to specifically identify complaints or allegations described in Section 2, §8E(d)(1)(A) of the Kate Puzey Peace Act. OIG determined the scope of this report would include allegations or complaints received between November 21, 2011, the date of enactment, and September 30, 2012, the end of the fiscal year. Subsequent reports will report information on a fiscal year basis.

For the purposes of this report, OIG only considered allegations or complaints originating from Volunteers or RPCVs against Peace Corps staff relating to misconduct, mismanagement, or policy violations, any breaches of confidentiality by Volunteers, and any actions to assure the safety of Volunteers who file such complaints. If the complaint or allegation originated with a Volunteer, but was submitted to OIG by another individual, the information has been included in this report. For the purposes of this report, the term “Peace Corps staff” includes employees, experts, consultants, Foreign Service Nationals, and personal services contractors. Complaints generated from Volunteers against other Volunteers were not considered for this report.

ALLEGATIONS MEETING THE KATE PUZEY ACT CRITERIA

ALLEGATION #1

Peace Corps Region: Caribbean

Allegation Type: Mismanagement

Allegation Narrative: On [REDACTED], OIG received an allegation from an RPCV regarding the Peace Corps' decision to administratively separate him. The RPCV alleged he was separated for handling the finances of a [REDACTED] school he founded during his Peace Corps service.

Breach of Confidentiality: No

Actions Taken to Assure the Safety of Volunteers: No indication that action was necessary to protect Volunteer safety.

Case Outcome/Disposition: The Investigation Unit conducted an inquiry into this complaint and learned that the CD provided the RPCV with several opportunities to reconcile the finances while still a Volunteer. The RPCV failed to do so and displayed inappropriate behavior in the workplace. The CD administratively separated the RPCV. No further investigative action was taken. The case was closed on [REDACTED].

ALLEGATION #2

Peace Corps Region: [REDACTED] Africa

Allegation Type: Mismanagement

Allegation Narrative: On [REDACTED], OIG received [REDACTED] anonymous emails from Volunteers in [REDACTED] Africa who disagreed with the administrative separation of a fellow Volunteer who was accused of drug/alcohol abuse, gambling, and violations of their country program's policies.

Breach of Confidentiality: No

Actions Taken to Assure the Safety of Volunteers: Volunteers reported anonymously. No indication that action was necessary to protect Volunteer safety.

Case Outcome/Disposition: The allegations were referred to Peace Corps management and the case was closed on [REDACTED].

ALLEGATION #3

Peace Corps Region: [REDACTED] Asia

Allegation Type: Misconduct

Allegation Narrative: On [REDACTED], OIG received an email from an RPCV who believed he/she had been misdiagnosed by a Peace Corps medical officer (PCMO).

Breach of Confidentiality: No

Actions Taken to Assure the Safety of Volunteers: The Volunteer had completed his/her service at the time of the complaint.

Case Outcome/Disposition: An investigation was conducted. The investigation revealed that the RPCV had likely been misdiagnosed. The matter was referred to the Office of Medical Services (OMS). OMS determined that medically evacuating the RPCV was in the best interest of the Volunteer. The PCMO's contract was not renewed in part because of the misdiagnosis. The case was closed on [REDACTED].

ALLEGATION #4

Peace Corps Region: [REDACTED] America

Allegation Type: Mismanagement

Allegation Narrative: On [REDACTED], OIG received an anonymous allegation from a Volunteer who reported that he/she and other Volunteers were concerned for their safety in the host country. It was alleged that Volunteers were fearful of repercussions for reporting crimes. They also believed that the existing safety policies did not improve the actual safety of Volunteers.

Breach of Confidentiality: This was an anonymous complaint. No breach was alleged.

Actions Taken to Assure the Safety of Volunteers: There was no individual safety action plan implemented as the complaint was anonymous. However, the Peace Corps has developed and implemented a plan to mitigate safety risks in several countries in Central America. The initiative focuses on providing safer transportation options for Volunteers.

Case Outcome/Disposition: Peace Corps implemented new security procedures at the country program level and the case was closed on [REDACTED]

ALLEGATION #5

Peace Corps Region: [REDACTED] America

Allegation Type: Breach of Confidentiality

Allegation Narrative: The CD was advised by a Volunteer (allegor) that another Volunteer might be using and selling controlled substances. While conducting an inquiry of the allegation, the CD inadvertently disclosed the name of the allegor. The CD advised OIG of the inadvertent disclosure. OIG investigated the breach and learned that the Volunteer was able to listen to a conversation the CD was having with the allegor [REDACTED].

Breach of Confidentiality: Yes

Actions Taken to Assure the Safety of Volunteers: The Office of Safety and Security was notified. The allegor and the Volunteer resided [REDACTED] apart and the allegor did not feel threatened by the Volunteer. The Country Director monitored the whereabouts of the Volunteer until [REDACTED] left the country in [REDACTED].

Case Outcome/Disposition: An investigation was conducted and validated that the allegor's confidentiality had been breached. The Volunteer who was subject of the complaint, resigned in lieu of administrative separation. On [REDACTED], OIG was notified that the CD was counseled about his actions in this incident.

ALLEGATION #6

Peace Corps Region: [REDACTED] Asia

Allegation Type: Mismanagement

Allegation Narrative: On [REDACTED], OIG received a complaint from a Volunteer who was attempting to receive a refill of medication, but was provided [REDACTED] instead. The Volunteer suggested that other [REDACTED] Volunteer's have also expressed concerns about the lack of appropriate medical care for [REDACTED].

Breach of Confidentiality: No

Actions Taken to Assure the Safety of Volunteers: No indication that a safety action plan was needed.

Case Outcome/Disposition: The matter was referred to OMS. The case was closed on [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

ALLEGATION #7

Peace Corps Region: [REDACTED] Africa

Allegation Type: Mismanagement

Allegation Narrative: On [REDACTED], OIG received a complaint from the parent of a Volunteer whose child was apparently not receiving enough fruits and vegetables and whom was worried about the child's health.

Breach of Confidentiality: No

Actions Taken to Assure the Safety of Volunteers: No indication that a safety action plan was needed.

Case Outcome/Disposition: The parent's concerns were referred to the Peace Corps management and no further action was taken. The case was closed on [REDACTED].

ALLEGATION #8

Peace Corps Region: [REDACTED] America

Allegation Type: Mismanagement

Allegation Narrative: On May 22, 2012, OIG received a complaint from an RPCV who thought he/she had been wrongly accused of alcohol abuse and not supported by the Peace Corps staff during [REDACTED] service. The RPCV advised [REDACTED] terminated [REDACTED] service [REDACTED] months early.

Breach of Confidentiality: None

Actions Taken to Assure the Safety of Volunteers: No indication that a safety action plan was needed.

Case Outcome/Disposition: The Investigation Unit reviewed the information provided by the RPCV and a response from the CD and determined no further investigative support was required.

ALLEGATION #9

Peace Corps Region: [REDACTED] America

Allegation Type: Mismanagement

Allegation Narrative: On [REDACTED], OIG received a complaint from a Volunteer about the CD. The Volunteer did not think the CD's out of site policy was fair to [REDACTED] Volunteers. The Volunteer thought the CD's communication in response to the Volunteer's concerns was inappropriate.

Breach of Confidentiality: None

Actions Taken to Assure the Safety of Volunteers: No indication that a safety action plan was needed.

Case Outcome/Disposition: OIG reviewed the information provided by the Volunteer and referred this matter to Peace Corps management.

ALLEGATION # 10

Peace Corps Region: [REDACTED] America

Allegation Type: Mismanagement

Allegation Narrative: On [REDACTED], OIG received a complaint from a Volunteer about a medical treatment he/she received in country. The Volunteer was medically evacuated to the United States for a [REDACTED] condition and a medical doctor advised him/her that he/she should have received additional treatment and tests for this condition when he was in country. The Volunteer also advised that he/she contacted the quality care nurse in the OMS, but does not believe any action was taken.

Breach of Confidentiality: None

Actions Taken to Assure the Safety of Volunteers: No indication that a safety action plan was needed.

Case Outcome/Disposition: This matter was reviewed by the quality care nurse in OMS and it was determined that the care the Volunteer received in country was appropriate.

ALLEGATION # 11

Peace Corps Region: [REDACTED] Africa

Allegation Type: Mismanagement

Allegation Narrative: On [REDACTED], OIG received a complaint from a Volunteer about the quality of Peace Corps-issued bicycles and bicycle training. The Volunteer advised that replacement parts were hard to get and repairs were expensive. The Volunteer also advised that Volunteers were not given the manuals for their bikes and were not given funds for bicycle repairs.

Breach of Confidentiality: None

Actions Taken to Assure the Safety of Volunteers: No indication that a safety action plan was needed.

Case Outcome/Disposition: OIG reviewed the information provided by the Volunteer. This matter was referred to Peace Corps management.

ALLEGATION # 12

Peace Corps Region: [REDACTED]

Allegation Type: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Breach of Confidentiality: [REDACTED]

Actions Taken to Assure the Safety of Volunteers: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Case Outcome/Disposition: [REDACTED]

ALLEGATION # 13

Peace Corps Region: [REDACTED] Africa

Allegation Type: Mismanagement

Allegation Narrative: On [REDACTED] OIG received a complaint from a Volunteer about the CD's handling of a complaint about racially insensitive material in a post publication.

Breach of Confidentiality: None

Actions Taken to Assure the Safety of Volunteers: No indication that a safety action plan was needed.

Case Outcome/Disposition: The case was referred to the Peace Corps Office of Civil Rights and Diversity (OCD).

ALLEGATION # 14

Peace Corps Region: [REDACTED] America

Allegation Type: Mismanagement

Allegation Narrative: On [REDACTED] OIG received a complaint from an RPCV about how Peace Corps staff handled his/her separation from Peace Corps service.

Breach of Confidentiality: None

Actions Taken to Assure the Safety of Volunteers: The complainant was no longer in country at the time of the complaint. No indication that a safety action plan was needed.

Case Outcome/Disposition: The case was referred to Peace Corps management for follow up.

ALLEGATION # 15

Peace Corps Region: [REDACTED] Africa

Allegation Type: Mismanagement

Allegation Narrative: On [REDACTED] OIG received a complaint from an RPCV about how Peace Corps staff handled her/his separation from Peace Corps service.

Breach of Confidentiality: None

Actions Taken to Assure the Safety of Volunteers: The complainant was no longer in country at the time of the complaint. No indication that a safety action plan was needed.

Case Outcome/Disposition: The complainant did not follow up with OIG's request for additional information.

ALLEGATION # 16

Peace Corps Region: Europe

Allegation Type: Misconduct

Allegation Narrative: On [REDACTED] OIG received a complaint that a Peace Corps staff member made inappropriate sexual advances toward a Volunteer.

Breach of Confidentiality: None

Actions Taken to Assure the Safety of Volunteers: No indication that a safety action plan was needed.

Case Outcome/Disposition: OIG investigated the allegation and was unable to substantiate that the staff member sexually harassed the Volunteer.

ALLEGATION #17

Peace Corps Region: Europe

Allegation Type: Mismanagement

Allegation Narrative: On [REDACTED] OIG received a complaint from a Volunteer about an email the CD sent to Volunteers asking them to report violations committed by Volunteers.

Breach of Confidentiality: None

Actions Taken to Assure the Safety of Volunteers: No indication that a safety action plan was needed.

Case Outcome/Disposition: This allegation was referred to Peace Corps management for follow up.

ALLEGATION #18

Peace Corps Region: Europe

Allegation Type: Misconduct

Allegation Narrative: On [REDACTED] OIG received a complaint from an RPCV who had reapplied to the Peace Corps but had not been nominated. The RPCV alleged that he/she was being retaliated against by the Peace Corps because he/she had voiced concerns about his/her prior Peace Corps service. . .

Breach of Confidentiality: None

Actions Taken to Assure the Safety of Volunteers: No indication that a safety action plan was needed.

Case Outcome/Disposition: The case is pending.

ALLEGATION #19

Peace Corps Region: [REDACTED] America

Allegation Type: Mismanagement

Allegation Narrative: On [REDACTED] OIG received a complaint that a Peace Corps staff member inappropriately took a portion of Volunteer's per diem to pay for [REDACTED]

Breach of Confidentiality: None

Actions Taken to Assure the Safety of Volunteers: No indication that a safety action plan was needed.

Case Outcome/Disposition: OIG investigated this allegation and the case is pending.

ALLEGATION # 20

Peace Corps Region: █████ t Africa

Allegation Type: Mismanagement

Allegation Narrative: On █████ OIG received a complaint from an RPCV that Peace Corps staff did not appropriately address his/her concerns about the lack of resources required for safety and security at his/her site.

Breach of Confidentiality: None

Actions Taken to Assure the Safety of Volunteers: No indication that a safety action plan was needed.

Case Outcome/Disposition: OIG will use the information received from the RPCV in planning for a possible future OIG evaluation.

ALLEGATION # 21

Peace Corps Region: █████ Africa

Allegation Type: Mismanagement

Allegation Narrative: On █████ OIG received a complaint from a Volunteer about injuries he/she received and access to appropriate medical care and medical facilities after the injury

Breach of Confidentiality: None

Actions Taken to Assure the Safety of Volunteers: OIG met with the OMS and reviewed the concerns raised about the availability of appropriate medical care. OMS worked with the post to ensure the Volunteer was temporarily assigned to a location with appropriate facilities.

Case Outcome/Disposition: This case is ongoing.

ALLEGATION # 22

Peace Corps Region: [REDACTED] America

Allegation Type: Misconduct

Allegation Narrative: On [REDACTED] OIG received a complaint from OMS that a Volunteer was sexually assaulted by the husband of Peace Corps post employee.

Breach of Confidentiality: None

Actions Taken to Assure the Safety of Volunteers: The Volunteer was transferred to another country to complete his/her Peace Corps Service.

Case Outcome/Disposition: This case is ongoing.

ALLEGATION # 23

Peace Corps Region: [REDACTED] Africa

Allegation Type: Mismanagement

Allegation Narrative: On [REDACTED] OIG received a complaint from a Volunteer about the CD's management of the day-to-day operations at the post.

Breach of Confidentiality: None

Actions Taken to Assure the Safety of Volunteers: No indication that a safety action plan was needed.

Case Outcome/Disposition: OIG reviewed the information provided by the Volunteer and determined the issues raised would be best addressed by Peace Corps management.

ALLEGATION # 24

Peace Corps Region: [REDACTED] Africa

Allegation Type: Mismanagement

Allegation Narrative: On [REDACTED] OIG received a complaint from an RPCV who wanted to meet and discuss concerns about his/her recent Peace Corps service. The RPCV stated, "The treatment that I received from Peace Corps, both from specific individuals and from the organization as a whole, is both unconscionable and appalling."

Breach of Confidentiality: None

Actions Taken to Assure the Safety of Volunteers: No indication that a safety action plan was needed.

Case Outcome/Disposition: OIG responded to the RPCV asking for additional information, but has not received a reply from the RPCV.

ALLEGATION # 25

Peace Corps Region: [REDACTED] Africa

Allegation Type: Mismanagement

Allegation Narrative: On [REDACTED] OIG received a complaint from a RPCV who alleged that he/she was wrongly denied his/her non-competitive eligibility and the post wrongly took a portion of his/her readjustment allowance.

Breach of Confidentiality: None

Actions Taken to Assure the Safety of Volunteers: No indication that a safety action plan was needed.

Case Outcome/Disposition: OIG reviewed the information, and contacted the post and learned that the money was returned to the RPCV and his/her non-competitive eligibility was not restored.

ALLEGATION # 26

Peace Corps Region: [REDACTED] Africa

Allegation Type: Misconduct

Allegation Narrative: On [REDACTED] OIG received a complaint from a Volunteer who alleged that he/she sexually harassed by a Peace Corps staff member. The Volunteer also notified ORCD of this allegation.

Breach of Confidentiality: None

Actions Taken to Assure the Safety of Volunteers: ORCD spoke to the Volunteer and was advised that the Volunteer did not have any safety concerns.

Case Outcome/Disposition: OIG reviewed the information and determined this allegation should be addressed by ORCD. The Volunteer notified both offices of this allegation.

APPENDIX A: VOLUNTEER OUTREACH INITIATIVE

The following are samples of the outreach materials OIG uses to inform staff, Volunteers and trainees of OIG's mission and work as well as the allegation reporting process.

FROM *THE PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER PRE-STAGING WORKBOOK*

Office of Inspector General

Everyone at headquarters fulfills a different role to support you in serving productively and safely overseas. As mandated by the Congress, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) provides the Peace Corps with independent oversight of all agency programs and operations. We conduct audits, evaluations, and investigations domestically and overseas providing management with recommendations to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the agency, while also protecting the Peace Corps from anyone who would like to do it harm by defrauding or misusing its resources.

If at any point during your service, you suspect fraud, waste, or abuse of government resources you should report it to OIG. Also, if at any point, you believe something was mismanaged (for example, a bribe was taken, your safety is in jeopardy, a sexual assault was mishandled), we urge you to contact our office. It is our job to investigate allegations of misconduct and criminal wrongdoing involving Peace Corps staff, contractors, and Volunteers, and it is our mission to make sure that agency funds are spent appropriately. We evaluate all complaints and protect the identity of complainants. No one may retaliate against you because you choose to report information and you always have the option to report information anonymously. To learn more about our office please visit www.peacecorps.gov/OIG.

OIG Hotline:

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| U.S. / Int'l: | 202.692.2915 |
| Toll-free in U.S.: | 800.233.5874 |
| Fax: | 202.692.2901 |
| Email: | OIG@peacecorps.gov |
| Online Contact Form: | www.peacecorps.gov/OIG/ContactUs |
| Mail: | P.O. Box 57129, Washington, D.C. 20037-7129 |

Peace Corps Office of Inspector General



A Volunteer's Guide to Contacting the OIG

REPORT FRAUD, WASTE, OR ABUSE
HOTLINE: 202.692.2915 OR OIG@PEACECORPS.GOV

HOW ARE ALLEGATIONS TREATED?

OIG, by law, cannot disclose the identity of any individual making a complaint or providing an allegation without their consent unless OIG determines, during the course of the investigation, that disclosure is unavoidable.

All allegations by V/Ts will be reviewed and given appropriate consideration. In accordance with Peace Corps Policy, no Peace Corps staff may retaliate in any manner against a V/T because they reported an allegation to OIG.

CAN ALLEGATIONS BE MADE ANONYMOUSLY?

The IG Act provides for anonymous complaints. The most effective means to convey your complaint anonymously is using the web form below. However, investigations are generally more effective if the complainant is available to provide information upon request.

HOW CAN VOLUNTEERS/TRAINEEES CONTACT OIG?

OIG Hotline :

U.S. / Int'l: 202.692.2915
Toll-free in U.S.: 800.233.5874
Fax: 202.692.2901
Email: OIG@peacecorps.gov
Web Form: www.peacecorps.gov/OIG/ContactOIG
Mail: P.O. Box 57129
Washington, D.C. 20037-7129

For Other Inquiries :

Main Office: 202.692.2900

WHEN VOLUNTEERS AND TRAINEES REPORT FRAUD, WASTE OR ABUSE, THEY CREATE A BETTER, SAFER, AND MORE EFFICIENT PEACE CORPS.

WHAT IS THE OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL?

Through audits, evaluations, and investigations, The Office of Inspector General (OIG) provides independent oversight of agency programs and operations in support of goals set forth in the Peace Corps Act while making the best use of taxpayer dollars. The Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended (IG Act), established OIG as an independent entity within the Peace Corps.

The Inspector General reports directly to Congress and the Peace Corps Director keeping them fully and currently informed concerning the programs and operations of the Peace Corps.

HOW DOES OIG PROVIDE GENERAL OVERSIGHT OVER THE PEACE CORPS?

OIG reviews the Peace Corps' domestic and overseas programs and operations and periodically OIG staff members travel to Peace Corps posts. OIG is comprised of three units: Audit, Evaluation and Investigation.

AUDITORS review contract compliance and financial and program operations, to ensure accountability and to recommend improved levels of economy and efficiency.

EVALUATORS analyze the management and program operations of the Peace Corps and identify best practices and recommend program improvements.

INVESTIGATORS respond to allegations, reports, or other information of criminal or administrative wrongdoing by Peace Corps employees, contractors, and Volunteers/trainees (V/T).

OIG audit and evaluation reports contain findings and recommendations pertaining to posts where Volunteers serve. Read our most recent reports here: www.peacecorps.gov/OIG.

REPORT FRAUD, WASTE, OR ABUSE

WHAT SHOULD BE REPORTED TO OIG?

OIG conducts investigations of criminal, civil, and administrative misconduct related to the Peace Corps' programs and operations. OIG serves as the law enforcement arm of the Peace Corps and works closely with other federal agencies.

Below are some examples of offenses that V/Ts should report to OIG when they involve Peace Corps employees, contractors, or V/Ts; or when they involve Peace Corps resources or funds administered by the Peace Corps or its Volunteers.

- Theft, abuse or misuse of any Peace Corps resource e.g. money, vehicles, property, or services
- Corrupt, unethical or dishonest actions in official capacity
- Abuse of authority or power for personal gain
- Violations of Peace Corps policy, host country, or U.S. law
- Breaches of confidentiality policy
- Illegal drug use, sales, distribution, or smuggling
- Dating or intimate physical or sexual relationship between a staff member and Volunteer or subordinate staff; or between a Volunteer and a person, including a student, over whom the Volunteer exercises authority
- Sexual assaults and sexual assault mismanagement
- Sexual contact with minors (defined under Peace Corps policy as a person under 18)
- Any person or situation that poses significant danger to Peace Corps employees, contractors, or V/Ts or the agency

WHAT IS SEXUAL ASSAULT MISMANAGEMENT?

The Kate Puzey Volunteer Protection Act of 2011 emphasizes the right of V/T to report to OIG instances where sexual assault allegations have been mishandled or treated inappropriately.

WHAT IS THE PROTECT ACT?

The Prosecutorial and Other Tools to end the Exploitation of Children Today (PROTECT) Act authorizes criminal prosecution of Americans who have sexual contact with minors or otherwise sexually abuse children abroad.

HOTLINE: 202.692.2915 OR OIG@PEACECORPS.GOV

POST EVALUATION NOTIFICATION LETTER TO VOLUNTEERS



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

To: Peace Corps/[country name] Volunteers
From: Kathy Buller, Inspector General
Date: [date]
Subject: The Upcoming OIG Evaluation of Peace Corps/[country name]

Senior Evaluator [name] of Peace Corps' Office of Inspector General (OIG) will visit Peace Corps/[country name] to conduct a country program evaluation on or about [date]. OIG is an independent office within the Peace Corps, which reports to the Director of the Peace Corps and to the Congress. OIG is responsible for promoting integrity and accountability; detecting and preventing mismanagement, fraud, waste, and abuse; and enhancing effectiveness and efficiency in Peace Corps programs and operations.

The purpose of our visit is to conduct a comprehensive country program evaluation and, where appropriate, make recommendations intended to improve program operations in PC/[country name]. During this visit, we will interview a representative sample of Volunteers by training group, project assignment, site location, and other demographic characteristics such as age and gender. The information we receive from these interviews is critical to our assessment of post operations. These interviews will allow for in-depth discussions about your project, training, living conditions, health care, safety, staff support, and transportation. This will also provide you with an opportunity to raise issues and share your experiences as Volunteers serving in [country name]. If you are selected to be part of the sample we will plan to spend approximately one to two hours with you at your home. We will try to minimize disruptions to your normal schedules.

We will confirm a sample of Volunteers to visit prior to our arrival. Volunteers who are not part of our sample may request a meeting by contacting Senior Evaluator [name] by email at [email address]. To the extent possible, we will make arrangements for as many additional meetings as our schedule allows.

We also encourage anyone who has information or concerns regarding mismanagement, fraud, waste, or abuse to contact Senior Evaluator [name] in advance of our visit, or to submit this information either via our hotline email address () or via our internet page (). All such information will be treated with utmost discretion and your identity will remain confidential as directed by the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, and/or other federal law and regulation. Please note that Peace Corps policy expressly prohibits reprisal or retaliation for reporting information or allegations of mismanagement, fraud, waste, abuse, or other wrongdoing.

[name] is looking forward to [his/her] visit to [country name]. Thank you in advance for your help.

EXCERPT FROM THE MONTHLY PEACE CORPS NEWSLETTER

Office of Inspector General

Want to help promote the integrity, efficiency and effectiveness of the Peace Corps?

Are you concerned about your safety? Have you heard about fraud, waste of resources, or mismanagement at post?

Report confidentially to the Office of Inspector General (OIG)—an independent entity within Peace Corps. The Inspector General reports directly to the Congress and the Peace Corps Director. To report an allegation to OIG Hotline, read OIG reports, or learn more about our office, please visit: .

Contact OIG:

Hotline 202.692.2915

Our Mission

Through audits, evaluations, and investigations, OIG provides independent oversight of agency programs and operations in support of the goals set forth in the Peace Corps Act while making the best use of taxpayer dollars

Contact OIG to Report Fraud, Waste, Abuse, or Mismanagement



Hotline 202.692.2915

Help Promote the Integrity, Efficiency, and Effectiveness of the Peace Corps

Anyone knowing of wasteful practices, abuse, mismanagement, fraud, or unlawful activity involving Peace Corps programs or personnel should contact the Office of Inspector General. Reports or complaints can also be made anonymously.

Contact OIG

Hotline:

U.S./International: 202.692.2915

Toll-Free (U.S. only): 800.233.5874

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