Michael J. Elston

United States Postal Service Chief Counsel, Employment Law

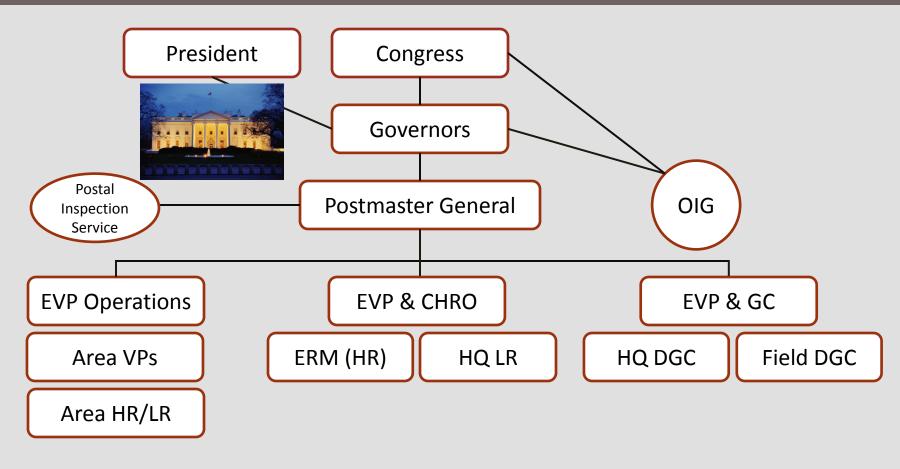


### USPS Compliance-Based Disciplinary Decisions Compliance Function is Divided

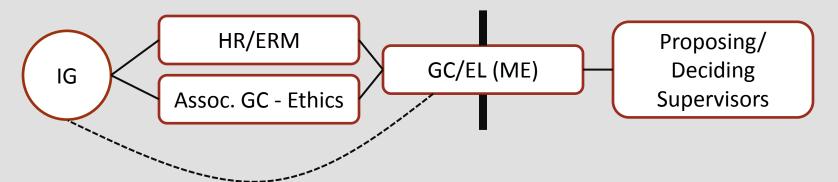
- Internal: Finance, General Counsel
- "External": Inspector General, Inspection Service

#### HR Function is Divided and "Once Removed"

- Headquarters and the Field
- General Counsel's role

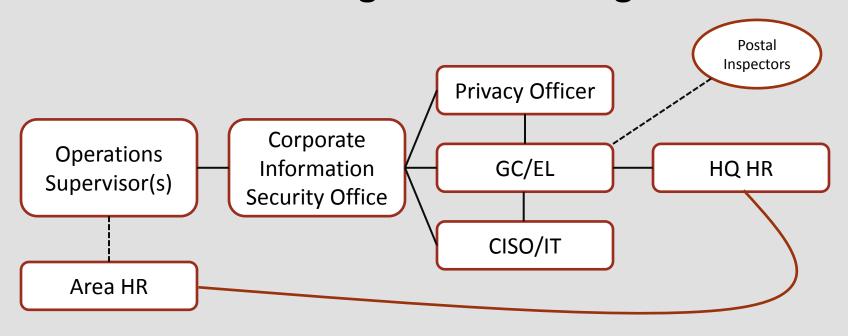


### Scenario 1: IG Investigation – HQ Executive

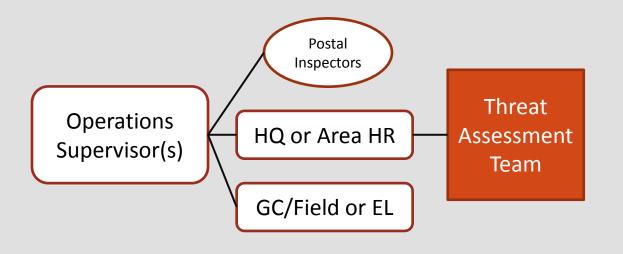


Why is this arrangement good for the Postal Service? For the IG? For Human Resources? Appeal to self-interest!

### Scenario 2: Management Investigations



#### Scenario 3: Threats of Violence



#### **TAT**

- Cross-functional
- Multidisciplinary
- Assists in assessing threatening situations
- Develops risk abatement plans that minimize risk of violence
- HR, LR, Safety, Operations, Postal Inspector, GC, EAP, outside mental health professional, ad hoc resources

- "Share everything."
- "Play fair."
- "Don't hit people."
- "Put things back where you found them."
- "Clean up your own mess."

- "Don't take things that aren't yours."
- "Say you're sorry when you hurt someone."
- "Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you."
- "Take a nap every afternoon."

### Compliance & HR Working Together

**Jacki Trevino** 

Fluor

Senior Manager, Corporate Ethics & Compliance



#### **Key Challenges**

- Turf Issues
  - HR feels threatened that Ethics is trying to "meddle in their business"
- > Reluctance to partner with Ethics to achieve common deliverables
  - Meeting regulatory requirements of harassment training
  - Employee surveys
  - Assessing risks
- Hesitation to share issues that could potentially be ethics issues
  - ➤ HR wants all concerns that are of an HR nature raised to the HR office, not willing to raise all ethics issues to the Ethics office
- Resources

#### How to Overcome the Challenges

- Establish credibility
- Lay the foundation
  - Define "blurred" boundaries
  - Provide tools
- Ask, listen and act
- Communicate, communicate, communicate

- Open lines of communication
- Begin to embed "ownership" at each business segment
- Leveraging resources
- Collaborating on investigations
- Provide feedback to corporate executives and segment leadership
- Going beyond the scope
- Educate and train on ethics & compliance
- Maintaining credibility, accountability and respect

"HR Professionals have to know when to step away from any investigation, such as one that may involve a person where the HR professional may have or can be perceived as not being totally objective."

-David Gustin,
Director Employee Relations, Dresser Corporate

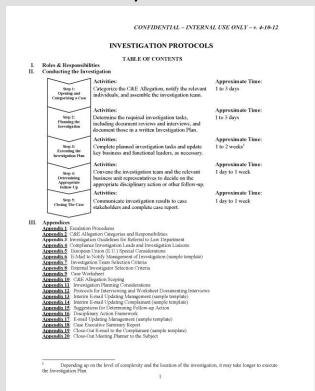


The Investigation Protocols are general protocols that help ensure consistency and high-quality, thorough investigations across Fluor. The protocols focus on 5 key areas:

- 1. Opening & Categorizing the Case
- 2. Planning the Investigation
- 3. Executing the Investigation Plan
- 4. Determining Appropriate Follow-Up
- Closing the Case

**Investigating Departments Include:** 

- ♦ Corporate Security
- ♦ HSE
- ♦ HR
- ♦ Industrial Relations
- ♦ Internal Audit
- ♦ Law



Compliance Issue

- Conflicts of Interest
- Financial Fraud
- Bribery/Corruption/ Gifts & Entertainment
- Falsification of Documents
- Accounting, Auditing Practices
- Confidential Information
- Violations of Laws & Regulations
- Misappropriation of Assets
- Environmental, Health & Safety Concerns
- Retaliation
- Expense Report Abuse

Human Resources Issue

- Discrimination
- Harassment
- Wrongful Disciplinary Action
- Abusive or Intimidating Behavior
- Internet or Email Abuse
- Workplace Conduct
- Theft
- Drugs & Alcohol



#### Policy

- For all employees
- Understand how to raise concerns & how concerns will be handled



#### Protocol

- Management training on how to handle employee concerns
- When to escalate those concerns of a sensitive nature



#### **Process**

- Investigation Team
- Investigation Scope
- Case Management

**Q VanBenschoten** 

Intertek

Compliance Officer - Americas





### COMPLIANCE WEEK 2013 POWERFUL INSIGHTS, PRACTICAL IDEAS, REAL SOLUTIONS



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