

Summary: Former USPP Employee Violated Post-Government Employment Law

Report Date: July 13, 2023

Report Number: 19-0669

The OIG investigated allegations that David Tolson, a retired Sergeant for the U.S. Park Police (USPP), a uniformed law enforcement agency within the National Park Service (NPS), violated ethics regulations by seeking employment with a company at the same time he oversaw its work associated with a USPP contract.

We found that, from 2016 to 2018, Tolson oversaw the company as it installed and maintained USPP's helicopter video system. In August 2018, while still overseeing the company's work, Tolson sought employment with the company despite being informed by an NPS ethics officer that he would have to recuse himself from overseeing the company's work if he engaged in employment negotiations with the company. The ethics officer also informed Tolson that he could not represent the company by "making a communication to or appearance before a Federal department [or] agency" regarding a specific matter on which he worked as a Federal employee.

In November 2018, approximately one month before he retired from the USPP, Tolson began part-time employment with the company as an application engineer. We determined that, in June 2019, Tolson contacted USPP employees via email and phone calls and encouraged them to award more contract work to the company for video system maintenance and support.

In September 2021, Tolson pleaded guilty to one misdemeanor count of violating 18 U.S.C. § 208, "Acts Affecting a Personal Financial Interest." On May 12, 2023, Tolson was sentenced to 24 months of probation and fined \$1,000. Additionally, Tolson was debarred from receiving Federal contracts until June 13, 2025.

This is a summary of an investigative report we provided to the NPS Director.

