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Description of document: General Services Administration (GSA) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) Interim Alert Report on Investigation into Potential Fraud, Waste, and Abuse of the 2010 Western Regions Conference, May 3, 2011

Appeal date: 16-May-2012

Released on appeal date: 04-June-2012

Posted date: 18-June-2012

Source of document: OIG Freedom of Information Act Officer  
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Note: The original FOIA request of 16-April-2012 was denied on 09-May-2012. This material released upon appeal.

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U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION  
Office of the Inspector General

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June 4, 2012

Re: Freedom of Information Act Appeal 12-02 (re: Request 12-40)

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) appeal, received on May 16, 2012. In your original FOIA request of April 16, 2012, you requested a copy of the interim report prepared by the OIG concerning abuses of the 2010 Western Regions Conference.

In a letter dated May 9, 2012, we withheld release of this report pursuant to exemption 7(A) of the FOIA, in that the requested report is contained in investigatory files compiled for law enforcement purposes and the investigation is still ongoing.

In your appeal, you cited that "the initial denial authority failed to review the records for release of segregable portions as required by law." We have reviewed our response, and in light of your appeal, are releasing this report to you with certain information withheld pursuant to Exemptions 5, 6, 7(A), and 7(C) of the FOIA. Exemption 6 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. §522(b) (6), relates to personal information regarding persons other than yourself. Release of this information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of the persons mentioned in the records. Information withheld pursuant to Exemption 7(C) of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. §522(b)(7)(C), relates to personal information regarding persons other than yourself that is contained in investigatory files. Release of this information could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of the persons mentioned in the records. In addition, Exemption 5 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5), protects pre-decisional documents that are part of the intra-agency deliberative process. Finally, Exemption 7(A) of the FOIA, 5U.S.C. §552(b)(7)(A), protects investigatory files compiled for law enforcement purposes in which the investigations are still ongoing. Releasing this information could reasonably be expected to interfere with ongoing enforcement proceedings.

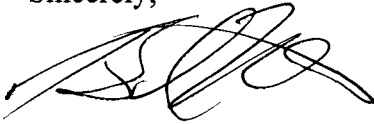
This constitutes the final agency determination on your appeal. You have the right to seek judicial review of this determination in the U.S. District Court in the district in which you reside or have your principal place of business, or in which the agency records are situated, or in the District of Columbia.

We request that, because this is in effect our initial production in response to your original request, before you seek judicial review, you provide us an opportunity to resolve administratively any questions or issues regarding this production. Please address any such



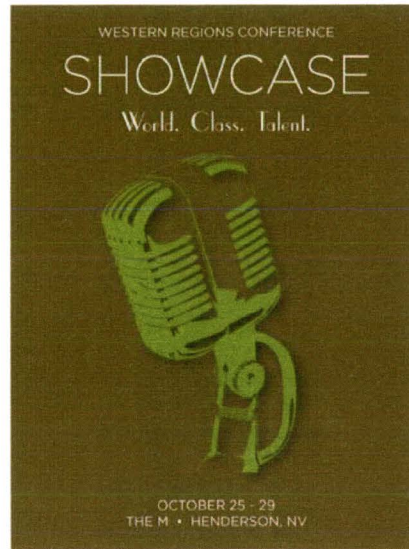
concerns to my Counsel, Richard P. Levi, at (202) 501-1362, or to Senior Counsel, Eric L. Miller, at (312) 353-0657.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Miller", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brian D. Miller  
Inspector General

Enclosure



# Western Regions Conference

**OIG Interim Alert Report on  
Investigation into Potential Fraud, Waste, and Abuse**

**Case Number: I1192222**

**May 3, 2011**

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## 2010 WESTERN REGIONS CONFERENCE INVESTIGATION

### Basis for Investigation

- 2010 Western Regions Conference held at M Resort Spa & Casino outside Las Vegas, NV
- Conference held October 25-29, 2010
- Hosted by Pacific Rim Region (Region 9)
- OIG received report of possible fraud, waste, or abuse
- Opened investigation in December 2010

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## 2010 WESTERN REGIONS CONFERENCE INVESTIGATION

# Overview of Findings

- Entire conference, including preplanning, cost GSA almost (b)(5), (b)(7)(a)
- GSA employees attended at least **eight** off-site pre-planning conferences over a 19 month period, including six at the M Resort
- Conference costs included \$75,000 for “team-building” exercise in which employees assembled bicycles, then donated them to charity

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# 2010 WESTERN REGIONS CONFERENCE INVESTIGATION

## Proposed Conference Budget

Expense	Cost
Conference Planning Session	\$(b)(5), (b)(7)(a)
Conference Facility	(b)(5), (b)(7)(a)
Guest Speakers/Teambuilding	\$(b)(5), (b)(7)(a)
Conference Supplies & Printing	\$(b)(5), (b)(7)(a)
Audio/Visual	\$(b)(5), (b)(7)(a)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$(b)(5), (b)(7)(a)</b>

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# 2010 WESTERN REGIONS CONFERENCE INVESTIGATION

## Regional Conference Attendance

Region	Number of Attendees
7	
8	
9	
10	
Central Office	
Other Regional Reps	
Speakers / Staff	
<b>Total</b>	

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## PLANNING COST

\$ (b)(5), (b)(7)(a)

- **Eight** pre-planning meetings (six at the M Resort)
- Final planning meeting labeled as “dry run”

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# WRC Pre-planning Meetings & Dry Run

<b>March 9-11, 2009</b> <b>Caesar's Palace</b> <b>ATTENDEES:</b> (b) (7)(C), (b) (6) [Redacted] Travel - \$ (b)(5), (b)(7)(a) Venue - \$ (b)(5), (b)(7)(a)	<b>March 30-31, 2009</b> <b>M Resort/Ritz Carlton</b> <b>ATTENDEES:</b> (b) (7)(C), (b) (6) [Redacted] Travel - \$ (b)(5), (b)(7)(a) Venue - \$ (b)(5), (b)(7)(a)	<b>August 17-19, 2009</b> <b>M Resort</b> <b>ATTENDEES:</b> (b) (7)(C), (b) (6) [Redacted] Travel - \$ (b)(5), (b)(7)(a) Venue - \$ (b)(5), (b)(7)(a)	<b>November 4-6, 2009</b> <b>M Resort</b> <b>ATTENDEES INCLUDING:</b> (b) (7)(C), (b) (6) [Redacted] Travel - \$ (b)(5), (b)(7)(a) Venue - \$ (b)(5), (b)(7)(a)	<b>March 8-12, 2010</b> <b>M Resort</b> <b>ATTENDEES:</b> (b) (7)(C), (b) (6) [Redacted] Travel - \$ (b)(5), (b)(7)(a) Venue - \$ (b)(5), (b)(7)(a)	<b>June 30-July 2, 2010</b> <b>Denver Marriott</b> <b>ATTENDEES:</b> (b) (7)(C), (b) (6) [Redacted] Travel - \$ (b)(5), (b)(7)(a) Venue - \$ (b)(5), (b)(7)(a)	<b>August 17-19, 2010</b> <b>M Resort</b> <b>ATTENDEES INCLUDING:</b> (b) (7)(C), (b) (6) [Redacted] Travel - \$ (b)(5), (b)(7)(a) Venue - \$ (b)(5), (b)(7)(a)
<b>October 12-15, 2010</b> <b>M Resort</b> <b>"DRY RUN"</b> <b>ATTENDEES INCLUDING:</b> (b) (7)(C), (b) (6) [Redacted] Travel - \$ (b)(5), (b)(7)(a) Venue - \$ (b)(5), (b)(7)(a)						

\* Costs estimated. GSA held (b)(5), (b)(7)(a)

NOTE: Attendees and travel amounts are based on GSA travel card charges and E2 travel voucher data.



# PLANNING & DRY RUN EXPENSES

EXPENSE	DATES	LOCATION	VENUE COST	TRAVEL COST
Planning Meeting	March 9 - 11, 2009	Caesar's Palace		\$(b)(5), (b)(7)(a)
Planning Meeting	March 30 - 31, 2009	M Resort and Ritz Carlton		\$(b)(5), (b)(7)(a)
Planning Meeting	August 17 - 19, 2009	M Resort	\$(b)(5), (b)(7)(a)	\$(b)(5), (b)(7)(a)
Planning Meeting	November 4 - 6, 2009	M Resort	(b)(5), (b)(7)(a)	\$(b)(5), (b)(7)(a)
Planning Meeting	March 8 - 11, 2010	M Resort	(b)(5), (b)(7)(a)	\$(b)(5), (b)(7)(a)
Planning Meeting	June 30 - July 2, 2010	Denver Marriott	(b)(5), (b)(7)(a)	\$(b)(5), (b)(7)(a)
Planning Meeting	August 16 - 19, 2010	M Resort	(b)(5), (b)(7)(a)	\$(b)(5), (b)(7)(a)
Planning / "Dry Run"	October 12 - 15, 2010	M Resort	(b)(5), (b)(7)(a)	\$(b)(5), (b)(7)(a)
<b>TOTAL</b>				(b)(5), (b)(7)(a)

\*Costs estimated. (b)(5), (b)(7)(a)

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# 2010 WESTERN REGIONS CONFERENCE INVESTIGATION

## Conference Schedule

### **Monday, October 25th**

Morning: Travel and Registration

Afternoon: Opening General Session

Evening: Networking Reception

### **Tuesday, October 26th**

Day: Breakouts and General Session

Evening: Free Night (optional building tour)

### **Wednesday, October 27th**

Day: Team Building / Service Event

Evening: Free Night

### **Thursday, October 28th**

Day: General Session / Breakouts

Evening: Capstone Dinner Event (Awards / Keynote Speaker)

### **Friday, October 29th**

Morning: General Session

Afternoon: Travel Home

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# CONFERENCE ONLY COST

\$ (b)(5), (b)(7)(a)

(b)(5), (b)(7)(a) per Attendee  
(b)(5), (b)(7)(a)

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# CONFERENCE EXPENSES

ITEM	AMOUNT
ALL VENDORS*	\$ (b)(5), (b)(7)(a)
TRAVEL EXPENSES	\$ (b)(5), (b)(7)(a)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ (b)(5), (b)(7)(a)</b>

*\*Excluding \$12,602 Location Solvers commission paid by M Resort.*

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# WRC TOP 10 VENDORS

VENDOR	AMOUNT
THE M RESORT – hotel	\$153,976
MVP ASSOCIATES – 1-day “team building” bicycle assembly project	\$75,000
ROYAL PRODUCTIONS – audio-visual services	\$61,808
(b)(5), (b)(7)(a) – 325 conference books	(b)(5), (b)(7)(a)
(b)(5), (b)(7)(a)	(b)(5), (b)(7)(a)
(b)(5), (b)(7)(a) – ARRA coin & velvet box for each employee	\$6,325
(b)(5), (b)(7)(a) – facilitation for WRC “breakout” sessions	(b)(5), (b)(7)(a)
(b)(5), (b)(7)(a) – canteen and carabineer mementos	(b)(5), (b)(7)(a)
(b)(5), (b)(7)(a) – t-shirts as mementos of team building	\$3,749
(b)(5), (b)(7)(a) – mind reader	(b)(5), (b)(7)(a)

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## 2010 WESTERN REGIONS CONFERENCE INVESTIGATION

### ONE-DAY TEAM BUILDING EXERCISE

- \$75,000 contract, #GS-P09-10-KS-5009, awarded to MVP/Delta 4 for bicycle-assembling exercise
- No solicitation posted to FedBizOpps
- Bid over \$100k; immediately dropped to \$75k when told this was PBS's limit
- (b)(5), (b)(7)(a)

### AUDIO-VISUAL SERVICES

- \$58,808 contract awarded to Royal Productions
- No solicitation posted to FedBizOpps
- (b)(5), (b)(7)(a)

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## 2010 WESTERN REGIONS CONFERENCE INVESTIGATION

### SELECTION OF VENUE

- Solicitation for sleeping rooms and meeting space posted to FedBizOpps on February 2, 2009
- CO contacted Location Solvers to find venue
- Location Solvers contacted M Resort immediately
- M Resort paid Location Solvers a \$12,601.50 commission for selecting M Resort (GSA did not pay Location Solvers)
- (b)(5), (b)(7)(a)

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## 2010 WESTERN REGIONS CONFERENCE INVESTIGATION

### ARRA COINS FOR EACH GSA EMPLOYEE



at a cost of \$6,325

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## TOTAL CONFERENCE & PLANNING COSTS

(b) (7)(A), (b) (5)

\$ (b) (5), (b) (7)(A) per Attendee  
(including planning costs; based on (b) (5), (b) (7)(A) attendees)

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## 2010 WESTERN REGIONS CONFERENCE INVESTIGATION

# Legal Requirements Implicated

- (b)(5), (b)(7)(a)
- 

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## 2010 WESTERN REGIONS CONFERENCE INVESTIGATION

### Legal Requirements Implicated, cont.

- (b) (7)(A), (b) (5)
- 

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## 2010 WESTERN REGIONS CONFERENCE INVESTIGATION

### Core Planning Team Members

(b) (6), (b) (7)(A), (b) (7)(C)



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## 2010 WESTERN REGIONS CONFERENCE INVESTIGATION

### Core Planning Team Members:

Jeffrey E. Neely, *Acting Regional Administrator, Region 9*

- (b)(7)(a)
- 

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## 2010 WESTERN REGIONS CONFERENCE INVESTIGATION

### Core Planning Team Members:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(A), (b) (7)(C)

- (b) (6), (b) (7)(A), (b) (7)(C)

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## 2010 WESTERN REGIONS CONFERENCE INVESTIGATION

### Core Planning Team Members:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(A), (b) (7)(C)

- (b) (6), (b) (7)(A), (b) (7)(C)

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## 2010 WESTERN REGIONS CONFERENCE INVESTIGATION

### Core Planning Team Members:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(A), (b) (7)(C) (b) (6), (b) (7)(A), (b) (7)(C)

- (b) (6), (b) (7)(A), (b) (7)(C)

[REDACTED]

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## Slideshow from Region 9 Website



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## Regional Planning Team Leads

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

SHOWCASE

## Teamwork

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

SHOWCASE

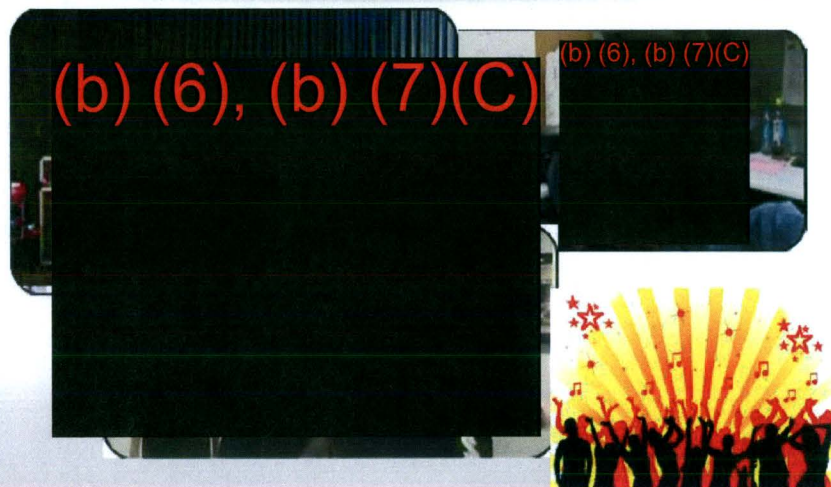
## The Team

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

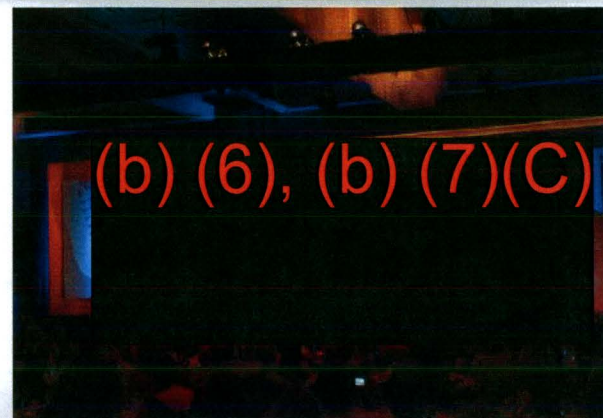
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## Regional Talent Competition

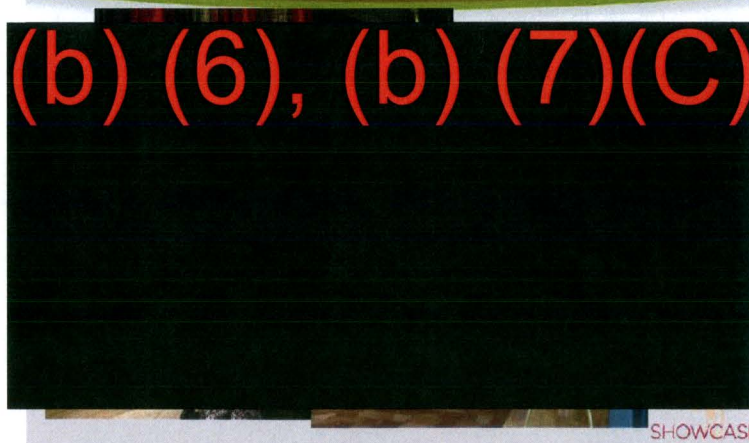


## (b) (7)(C) Recognized at Capstone



SHOWCASE

## The Conference



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## Teambuilding – Part 1

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)



SHOWCASE

## Green Table Top Exercise

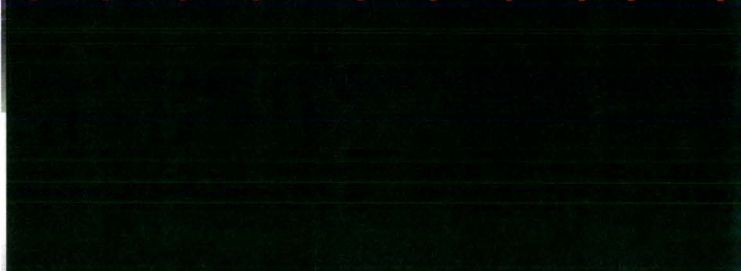
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)



SHOWCASE

## Networking Reception and ARRA Awards

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)



SHOWCASE

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## Teambuilding – Part 2

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

## Kids Arrival - Bike Safety Training

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Welcome  
to  
Bike  
Safety  
Training

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

## The Reveal

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

SHOWCASE

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## The Bike Parade

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

SHOWCASE

## Masters at Work

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

SHOWCASE

## The MCs and their Crew

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)


SHOWCASE

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## Greening of the Masters

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)



SHOWCASE

## Green Man Group - Workin It

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)



SHOWCASE

## Red Carpet Gala

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)



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