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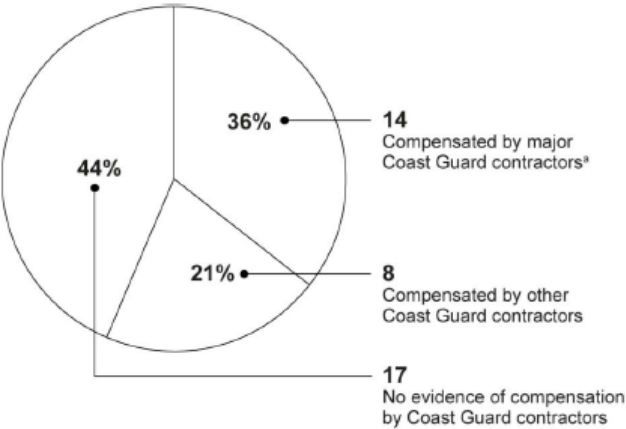
PROCUREMENT

Depressing Pie Chart #1

By Mark Thompson @MarkThompson_DC | Dec. 21, 2012 | 3 Comments

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Figure 1: Compensation of 39 Former High-Ranking Coast Guard Officials by Coast Guard Contractors from 2006 through 2011



Source: GAO analysis of Coast Guard and contractor data.

*Some of the individuals compensated by major Coast Guard contractors may have also been compensated by other Coast Guard contractors at some point during this period.

GAO

People are forever complaining about the so-called “revolving door,” which has government officials leaving public employment to work for companies they dealt with while in government.

There may not be those kinds of spinning doors on Coast Guard cutters, it’s plain there’s a close relationship between those who supply them. More than half of the Coast Guard officials who retired since 2006 ended up on the payrolls of Coast Guard contractors.

According to a Government Accountability Office report,

A total of 22 of the 39 former high-ranking officials who separated from the Coast Guard from 2006 through 2011 by contractors that received more than \$10 million in obligations during that calendar year. The responsibilities of these officials vary, but 9 of these 12 officials were assigned by major contractors to positions involving the development of new business.

The GAO goes on to note that such jobs are allowed by law, so long as the former government official complies with certain restrictions on his or her activities with the new employer.

Take procurement officials, for example. The GAO notes that

Former specified acquisition officials who performed certain procurement duties for the government on a contract valued in excess of \$10 million are barred from accepting any compensation (e.g., as an employee, independent contractor, or consultant) from the contractor involved within 1 year after performing those duties.

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Not sure a year adequately protects the taxpayer, but sure it helps former Coast Guard officials weather the loss of their government paychecks. Think of these jobs as...*lifestyle* preservers.

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RickRanger

or perhaps someone who has served 20 or 30 years in the military knows a thing or two about what kind of equipment our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines need. i know you see nefariousness and ill-motives behind everything the military does (to include faking PTSD symptoms). but is it preferable to have someone with no military experience making these decisions?



Don_Bacon

@RickRanger In a perfect world there would be very few, or no, cost-plus contracts. They would all be fixed-fee, awarded to the lowest bidder. In a perfect world personal relationships wouldn't contribute to sole-source no-bid cost-plus "sweetheart" contracts to "beltway bandits.". And in a perfect world commissioned officers wouldn't be in tight with contractors and give them favors, such as no-bid contracts, while they were in service in hopes -- often realized -- of post-retirement employment.All these "revolving door" problems which drive up costs and downgrade acquisition performance and harm our national defense wouldn't exist in a perfect world. In a perfect world these guys with all their knowledge would simply provide it, with no strings attached.

Alas we don't live in a perfect world, with unblemished officers who simply know a thing or two about what kind of equipment our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines need, without all the other negative baggage. It's a pleasant dream, but that's all it is.



Don_Bacon

Thank goodness for the War on Drugs -- thirty years old and still making a living for many people, in and out of government, including a relatively small number of criminals, if one doesn't include retired coast guard officers, winners in the War (financially).

- 1
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