



Depressing Pie Chart #2

By Mark Thompson @MarkThompson_DC | Dec. 21, 2012 | 2 Comments

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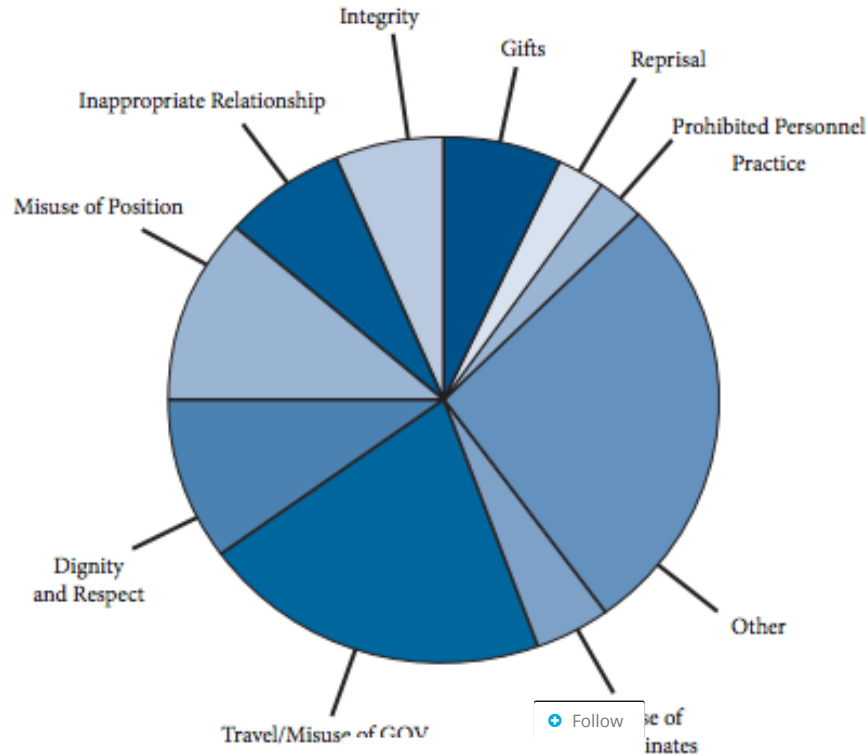
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Figure 2.4
Types of Senior Official Misconduct Investigations



Battleland appreciates the simplicity of pie chart always getting the smallest slice of pizza as a kid.

Here's a nifty new one from the Pentagon inspection report. It details complaints made against senior officer with stars on his/her shoulders, top-rank Senior Executive Service, and political appointee September 30, 2012.

Variety, as they say, is the spice of command. Look at the range of alleged wrongdoing, from "misuse of subordinates" to "misuse of position" to "gifts." It's nice to know the senior ranks are purportedly skilled in so many areas of supposed malfeasance.

According to the IG, there were 815 complaints of alleged misconduct by top Pentagon officials (in some cases, more than one allegation was made against a single individual).

A total of 639 have been closed:

— 318 "were dismissed due to lack of a credible allegation of misconduct."

— Of the 321 remaining, "83 of the closed investigations, (26 percent) contained substantiated allegations."

Did you see that?

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The IG just used funny math, by changing denominators in mid-stream. It's an old trick: focus on the numerator while tweaking the denominator, and the problem can appear worse than it is.

Sure, 26% of the 321 cases yielded substantiated allegations – but only if you don't add the 318 cases that were dismissed for lack of evidence of wrongdoing to the total.

But isn't that bigger pile – 639 – the key number? If you conclude that it is, only 13% of the allegations were substantiated.

Still too high, to be sure, but only half as high as the IG says.

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 Don_Bacon

That's a good point. Here's another: Why were 83 investigations closed when they contained substantiated allegations?

And one more: Investigating officers better watch their six whenever they intend to determine that any allegations against senior Pentagon officials are "substantiated," which is why it happens infrequently. I filed charges against my boss, a full bull, once upon a time, and the look-alike colonel they sent to "investigate" naturally found no malfeasance. It didn't surprise me. I expected it once I saw his branch insignia. But I got a transfer to a better job -- that was nice.

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