



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL  
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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EXECUTIVE #2

AUG 18 2010

August 18, 2010

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Kevin L. Ward, Commissioner  
Department of Public Safety  
3600 N. Martin Luther King Avenue  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111

Dear Commissioner Ward:

My office has been presented with our requested audit of Troop "O", the helicopter division of the Oklahoma Highway Patrol ("OHP"). The purpose of our investigation and the audit by the State Auditor & Inspector was to determine if any criminal activity had occurred in relationship to activities surrounding Troop "O".

The audit makes it abundantly clear that three entities kept no, or, at the very best, wholly inadequate records concerning inventory and transactions. These entities were OHP, Speciality Aviation Service ("SAS") Seminole, Oklahoma, and the federal government; in particular, the Special Operation Aviation Regiment ("SOAR") at Fort Campbell, KY. Multiple transfers and inter-dealing occurred between and among these three entities. Due to poor management and control it is impossible to determine if any individual or individuals embezzled any of the equipment or profited therefrom.

This lack of oversight and control should not be tolerated in any administrative agency, especially a law enforcement organization that should be above reproach. The activities of Trooper Joe Howard and mechanic Michael Lane, while highly suspect, do not rise to the level sufficient for prosecutive merit.

It is my understanding that the Department of Public Safety ("DPS") and OHP have initiated procedures to correct these deficiencies. I would suggest you work closely with the Auditor and Inspector to construct a system with adequate checks and controls on all of your inventory and transactions.

Because of the lack of management, control and inadequate inventory, criminal investigation into this matter is precluded and closed. If my office can be of assistance in helping with remediation, please call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W.A. Edmondson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

W.A. DREW EDMONDSON  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

WAE:seh

cc: Honorable Brad Henry  
Governor

Steve Burrage  
State Auditor and Inspector

Tom Gruber  
First Assistant Attorney General