



This Month at the WFO

A newsletter from the FBI Washington Field Office

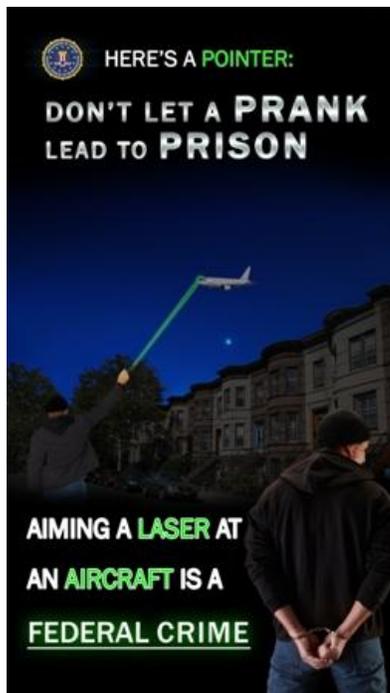
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FBI Participates in Record Health Care Fraud Takedown

This month more than 20 people, including operators of home care agencies and nurse staffing agencies, office workers, and personal care assistants, were arrested following investigations into fraudulent billing practices in the home health care industry. The arrests – marking the [largest health care fraud takedown](#) in the history of the District of Columbia – followed a multi-year effort by federal and local law enforcement agencies to target widespread fraud in the District of Columbia Medicaid program. More than 200 law enforcement agents fanned out across the region to make arrests, execute search warrants at 10 locations, and seize dozens of bank accounts and property. The investigation uncovered numerous separate schemes involving fraud, kickbacks, and false billings in the growing field of home care services for D.C. Medicaid patients. Medicaid provides for such services to be performed by personal care aides, working for home care agencies. The aides assist Medicaid beneficiaries in performing activities of daily living, such as getting in and out of bed, bathing, dressing, keeping track of medication, and so forth. In order to be covered for such benefits, the beneficiaries must get a doctor’s prescription. FBI encourages anyone to report suspected fraud to HealthCareFraud@ic.fbi.gov.

WFO Launches Public Awareness Campaign Public Corruption in Northern Virginia

WFO launched a [public awareness campaign](#) this month seeking the public’s assistance in identifying public corruption in Northern Virginia. As the FBI’s number one criminal investigative priority, public corruption occurs when a public official, at any level of government – local, state, or federal – does any official act in exchange for money or other free goods or services for private gain. Public corruption could also include public employees who take something of value for their own personal gain, thereby violating the public’s trust. WFO has a dedicated squad of agents that investigate allegations of public corruption in Northern Virginia. To help identify potential criminal activity, the Washington Field Office has set up a Northern Virginia Public Corruption Hotline at 703-686-6225 and e-mail at NOVAPC@ic.fbi.gov. A recent case that was featured on the FBI “Gotcha” podcast notes a case of public corruption in which a local resident engaged in a bribery scheme that resulted in the issuance of driver’s licenses to illegal aliens. [Click here to read more](#) about this case or [listen to the “Gotcha” podcast](#).



FBI Announces New Reward Program Aimed at Deterring Laser Strikes

In February, the FBI announced a new regional reward program to deter people from pointing lasers at aircraft. Reported incidents of the federal violation are on the rise. Since the FBI and the Federal Aviation Administration began tracking laser strikes in 2005, statistics reflect a more than 1,100 percent increase in the deliberate targeting of aircraft by people with handheld lasers. In an effort to raise public awareness about the issue, the FBI has launched a targeted regional reward program, which will run for 60 days in 12 FBI field offices. As part of the pilot program, the FBI Washington Field Office will offer a reward of up to \$10,000 for information that leads to the arrest of any individual who aims a laser at an aircraft. In 2013, there were a total of 3,960 laser strikes reported nationwide – an average of almost 11 incidents per day. Industry experts say laser attacks present potential dangers for pilots. [Click here to watch an interview](#) with pilots about laser strikes.

Office Manager Sentenced to 37 Months in Prison for Embezzlement

Bernard Chung of Falls Church, Va., was sentenced on Thursday, Feb. 27, 2014, to a 37-month prison term for embezzling more than \$400,000 from a law firm in Washington, D.C. Chung served as the firm’s office manager. While there, he devised a scheme to defraud the firm by inflating his paycheck and issuing excessive salary payments. He was able to hide his fraud because his employment position authorized him to handle the payroll and accounts payable

allowing him to exploit the system. The full press release is available [here](#).

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