

Secret Service furloughs third White House guard

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The Secret Service, looking into possible security breaches at the White House during late-night tours arranged by former Washington lobbyist Craig J. Spence, has placed a third White House guard on administrative leave.

Secret Service officials also interviewed a captain on the White House security detail for more than seven hours over the weekend, although he remains on the job, according to law enforcement officials.

The reason for the lengthy questioning of Capt. Joseph Shober - four hours Saturday and three hours Sunday - was not immediately known, and Capt. Shober was not available yesterday for comment.

He was the supervisor of Officer Reginald A. deGueldre and the other suspended officers during the period when the late-night White House tours, including one July 3, 1988, that reportedly included two male prostitutes, occurred, officials said.

The uniformed Secret Service officer who was placed on administrative leave Monday night, whom Secret Service spokesman Rich Adams refused to identify, worked some of the same midnight shifts as Officer deGueldre and another uniformed guard placed on administrative leave last week.

Mr. Adams also declined to comment on why the third officer was relieved of his duties or why Capt. Shober was questioned. "This is an internal matter and beyond that I just can't comment," he said. "It is an ongoing investigation, and we are talking to a number of people. Just because we're talking to someone does not make them a subject of the investigation."

The Secret Service investigation, authorities said, is aimed at determining if White House security was breached during late-night tours arranged by Mr. Spence and attended by several of his friends.

One law enforcement official said that, while many Secret Service officers and others have taken relatives and friends through the White House on special tours, they usually occur between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m., and that 1 a.m. tours - as arranged by Mr. Spence - are "totally out of the ordinary."

Officer deGueldre has acknowledged knowing Mr. Spence and attending parties the Washington lobbyist held at his Wyoming Avenue mansion. The officer also admitted during interrogation by the Secret Service, according to an affidavit filed in U.S. District Court, that he removed valuable china and other items from the White House, some of which ended up in Mr. Spence's house.

Officer deGueldre also told The Washington Times he had accepted an \$8,000 gold Rolex watch from Mr. Spence. It is not clear what Mr. deGueldre did for Mr. Spence, if anything, or what favors might have been expected.

The officer has denied any wrongdoing.

Mr. Spence's name surfaced following a Feb. 28 raid by the Secret Service, Metropolitan Police and U.S. marshals on a house at 6004 34th Place NW, where a homosexual prostitution ring was operating. Credit card vouchers showed that the lobbyist, who has worked as a registered foreign agent for various Japanese organizations, spent as much as \$20,000 a month on call boy services.

Mr. Spence has not been available for comment.

Alleged credit card fraud involving a number of escort services that sent male prostitutes to the 34th Place house is currently under investigation by the office of U.S. Attorney Jay Stephens. Mr. Stephens has declined to discuss the matter.

The Secret Service has jurisdiction over credit card crimes.

According to several people who were on the White House tours arranged by Mr. Spence, the Washington lobbyist put together at least four tours of the presidential mansion last year, two of which - June 29 and Nov. 22 - he attended personally.

The June 29 tour, according to several of Mr. Spence's friends, occurred after the Washington lobbyist visited the ABC television studios of Nightline and introduced a 15-year-old boy, identified as his son, Will, to anchorman Ted Koppel.

Several of the persons who went on the White House tours have been interviewed by the Secret Service about Mr. deGueldre and Mr. Spence. **Those interviewed said investigators were concerned about possible security breaches and about Mr. Spence's connections to well-placed military and government officials, but that the agents did not elaborate.**

One tour participant said some of the items allegedly taken out of the White House by Mr. deGueldre might have been smuggled out during at least one of the Spence-arranged tours. The participant said Mr. deGueldre handed over a sealed box containing "something that rolled around" and asked that it be hand-delivered to Mr. Spence.