

UNSAFE

With U.S. Security Associates

What you need to know about safety at America's fourth-largest security firm.

February 2012 ■ Issue 7

Welcome

to the seventh issue of *Unsafe with U.S. Security Associates*. Published by the Service Employees International Union, this newsletter informs security directors, property managers, office building tenants and others about the business practices of U.S. Security Associates.

Upcoming issues will explore:

- More on USSA's alleged problems with sexual harassment, discrimination and training.



VisitStandForSecurity.org

Here They Go Again—Another Case Alleging Sexual Harassment at USSA Surfaces in Florida

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—*Stand for Security* has learned that still another female employee of U.S. Security Associates (USSA) has filed a lawsuit against her employer alleging sexual harassment and retaliation.

For readers familiar with USSA, the woman's case follows a well established pattern: alleged sexual harassment, followed by a complaint by the victim to the company, followed by company retaliation— against the victim herself.

According to the complaint, filed last April:

"[The USSA site supervisor] touched and rubbed [the woman's] and other employees' backs. At shift change, [the supervisor] would pull [the woman] down in his lap in front of co-workers and supervisors. On multiple occasions [he] told [her] to meet him at his boat. [He] outright asked [her] for sex. [She] refused. [She] pulled away when [he] touched her." Furthermore, "[She] reported that [he] would rub her back, sit in her lap, and rub his private parts on her when he pulled her onto his lap."

The complaint continues, "Despite [the woman's] reports about [her supervisor], [USSA] failed to address [his actions] and his behavior continued."

Then came the retaliation. "After [she] reported [her supervisor's] sexual harassment, [he] and [USSA] engaged in retaliatory actions which led up to [her] termination. After [she] repeatedly told [him] 'no,' [he] required [her] to work weekends and fabricated write-ups against [her]."

The sexual harassment of security officers is an issue of human dignity. But it's also about safety. According to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, sexual harassment can seriously impact an individual's work performance. When that individual is a security officer, everybody is put at risk.

The jury trial is due to start March 26. *Stand for Security* will be watching closely.

Stand for Security
Service Employees International Union, CTW, CLC
1800 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036

