



Medically-retired Mesa cop collecting worker's comp is Ironman athlete

By: Heather Moore

One of the elite athletes who crossed the finish line in the grueling Ironman Arizona last November is 49-year-old Audrey Glemba.

She's a medically-retired police officer who collects a worker's compensation check every month for an injury she said prevented her from doing her job.

A review of Glemba's records reveal she suffered a back and knee injury in 1995 during a training exercise with the Mesa Police Department.

A year later she was promoted to sergeant and in 2002 she became supervisor of the Dobson Bicycle Squad.

Sgt. Audrey Glemba put in for a medical retirement in 2008.

In the 14 years from her injury to her medical retirement, Glemba ran 29 races, including 10 triathlons, according to the website athlinks.com, a website that compiles results of such races.

CBS 5 Investigates learned that at the time she sought medical retirement, Glemba was under investigation by the internal affairs division.

"This investigation went from 2007 to 2008 when it ultimately ended," said Detective Steve Berry of the Mesa Police Department.

The 2007 internal affairs investigation revealed Glemba and members of the squad she supervised were taking photos of themselves, the homeless and disabled, which they ridiculed with disparaging and offensive remarks.

"They were posting all of that various photographs on walls in different montages, and they'd make captions about who they were or what they were doing," said Berry.

The investigation ended when Glemba was fired in December of 2008.

While she appealed her termination, the local pension board approved her medical retirement, satisfied she was unable to perform the essential functions of her job.

Glemba was briefly reinstated and then retired with full benefits.

Jim Quiggle of the Coalition Against Insurance Fraud, a watchdog group in Washington, DC, asked, "Should there be more scrutiny, should there be more transparency?"

"When we're dealing with an issue that could be costing taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars over the lifetime of the person's retirement, maybe even millions, you have to ask the question," said Coalition's James Quiggle.



Coalition Against Insurance Fraud

Quiggle said cases like Glemba's raise a lot of questions about how Arizona approves and tracks disability claims.

"When we're dealing with an issue that could be costing taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars over the lifetime of the person's retirement, maybe even millions, you have to ask the question," said Quiggle.

The Arizona Industrial Commission and the Public Safety Retirement System tell us they both have the authority to go back and review disability claims. The Public Safety Retirement System says currently they have no one investigating whether an individual's medical condition changes.

Quiggle suggests more oversight.

"Should there be a review panel to go over these claims? Most departments will have internal, they'll have internal integrity offices that are designed to try to be backstops," Quiggle told CBS 5.