

Inspection and Evaluation Committee

President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency

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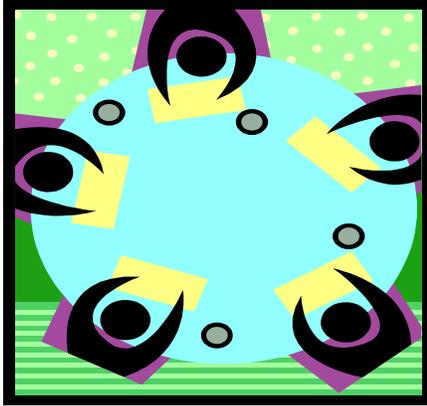
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SPRING/SUMMER 2004 JOURNAL OF PUBLIC INQUIRY

We are pleased to note that the Spring/Summer 2004 edition of the *Journal of Public Inquiry* will include two articles on inspection and evaluation issues.

George Grob, HHS OIG, prepared an article entitled, "Inspections and Evaluations: Looking Back, and Forward Too." George's article provides a historical perspective of HHS I&E work, including a discussion of the keys to conducting successful evaluations.

Johnnie Frazier, Commerce IG and Chair of the I&E Committee, authored an article entitled, "Inspections and Evaluations: Rounding Out the Power and Potential of the IG Act." Johnnie's article was prepared with input from four fellow IGs, who provided excellent examples of inspections from the Departments of Homeland Security, Veterans Affairs, Justice, and the Envi-

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ronmental Protection Agency. Johnnie believes they represent some of the best examples of quality inspection and evaluation work. Unfortunately, due to time and space limitations, he could only briefly summarize them in the article. We've provided those summaries here, along with their respective web site location, where available, for those of you who would like to read the full inspection reports.

HOMELAND SECURITY



Transportation Security Administration's Checked Baggage Screener Training and Certification: A Letter Report

This report evaluated the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) methods for determining whether federal airport screeners were adequately trained. In about 2 months, the office issued a report that detailed and put an end to poor testing practices. (DHS, in a review of its own conducted prior to the IG's, had pronounced the testing "acceptable.")

The report can be found at http://www.dhs.gov/interweb/assetlibrary/Schumer_TSA_OIG.pdf



UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next I&E Committee meeting will be hosted by Labor IG Gordon Heddell. The date has not yet been set. The Government Printing Office will host the next Roundtable meeting on October 28.

For more information about any item in this newsletter, contact Debbie Holmes at 202-482-2600 (Dholmes@oig.doc.gov) or Jill Gross at 202-482-2754 (Jgross@oig.doc.gov).

VETERANS AFFAIRS



Review of allegations of misconduct and possible manslaughter in a VA-sponsored clinical research

This unique review involved alleged misconduct and possible manslaughter in a VA-sponsored clinical research trial involving human subjects. Inspectors were on-site in Albany, New York, within 24 hours of receiving a request for assistance from IG Dick Griffin's Office of Investigations, and their findings prompted the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) to suspend research activities throughout the entire VHA system for 90 days. Only skilled medical professionals could have conducted this specialized inquiry, which involved evaluation of comprehensive health care and clinical data, policies, and procedures. Dick Griffin's staff subsequently conducted a follow-up inspection of compliance with the suspension order. The report is not available online.

JUSTICE



Review of the U.S. Marshals Service's Judicial Security Program

A recent evaluation of the U.S. Marshals Service's protection of federal judges and courts

found a system rife with inadequacies: threat assessments were poor and untimely; guidance for determining protective measures appropriate to potential risks did not exist; and information sharing among the Marshals Service's 94 districts was limited, as was its participation on federal counterterrorism task forces. The resulting report recommended a number of steps to enhance protective operations. Congress promptly appropriated additional funding to make the needed improvements.

The report can be found at <http://www.usdoj.gov/oig/inspection/USMS/0404/final.pdf>

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY



EPA's Response to the World Trade Center Collapse: Challenges, Successes, and Areas for Improvement

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) OIG used evaluation methodology to assess EPA's handling of environmental hazards resulting from the World Trade Center collapse and the effectiveness of its efforts to protect the public from harm. Evaluators found numerous failings in EPA's response and communications capabilities. The final report, which offered 16 recommendations, was a key resource in congressional hearings into 9/11 and its aftermath. When the agency balked at addressing IG recommendations to improve its cleanup of indoor spaces, sev-

eral senators and the White House Council on Environmental Quality took action to ensure that EPA assessed the cleanup effort and made improvements as needed.

The report can be found at http://www.epa.gov/oigearth/reports/2003/WTC_report_20030821.pdf

Johnnie's article also includes a discussion of some of the controversial issues facing the I&E community. This edition of the *Journal* will be published in mid-September. Again, special thanks to Clark Kent Ervin, Dick Griffin, Glenn Fine, and Nikki Tinsley for their help.

FEEDBACK STILL NEEDED ON UPDATE OF THE QUALITY STANDARDS FOR INSPECTIONS

Elise Ennis (Energy OIG) is continuing her work on this important project—updating the *Quality Standards for Inspections*. Comments have been received from 14 members of the Inspections and Evaluation Roundtable. However, it is not too late to send in your comments. Please send them via email to Elise.Ennis@hq.doe.gov or by phone at 202-586-7239. If you would like to receive a copy of the standards or the matrix of comments received to date, please contact Elise or Debbie Holmes.

The I&E Committee hopes to complete this project within the next few months.