

Investigations Committee Members

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IG DHS
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IG SBA
Dave Williams
IG USPS

Upcoming Meeting:
February 21, 2007
at the ITC Building
(Room 839)
in Washington, D.C.



Investigations Committee

NEWSLETTER

January 9, 2007

IG Criminal Investigator Academy Update

The Inspector General Criminal Investigator Academy (Academy) is off and running. The Academy offered its first 3-day Inspector General Transitional Training Program (IGTTP) in early December. The course was well attended and all 47 participants reported that the training would improve their present job performance.

In November, Academy Director, Angela Hrdlicka, sent out a needs assessment survey to the community and received an excellent response. The 46 respondents from 42 agencies provided very favorable feedback overall. The respondents rated the Public Corruption Integrity Investigations and Procurement Contract Grant Fraud training as the most important training. There was also a high demand expressed for IG In-Service training to include legal, firearms, and defensive tactics refreshers. To begin facilitating this type of offering, Director Hrdlicka requested feedback from the community on an 8-day model schedule for this proposed offering. Responses were due by January 5, 2007.

As a result of the November 30, 2006 curriculum review meeting, it was decided that a permanent curriculum review group would be established to review and refine or revise the Academy's basic training programs. It is expected that this group will be composed of about 12 members and they will meet two times per year. A request for nominees to this group was issued to

the Assistant Inspectors General for Investigations in mid-December. This group, once established, will use the two validation surveys that were sent out to recent graduates (and supervisors) of the IGTTP and the Inspector General Investigator Training Program (IGITP). These surveys were initiated to determine whether the training was meeting the needs of the students and preparing them for their jobs. Although a majority of the graduates and their supervisors indicated that they were satisfied with the current programs, there were several suggestions for improvement.

In late December, the Academy tasked the General Services Administration to begin the billing process for the Tier 1 and Tier 2 assessments and the Academy course tuition. On the staffing front, as of January 1, 2007, Nancy Kennedy from the Social Security Administration's (SSA) Office of the Inspector General joined the staff to assume the Academy's Program Manager position. Nancy will be a great addition and will focus her attention on the upcoming courses at the Academy.

On the schedule for the remainder of this year are 4 IGITP offerings, 3 Basic Non-Criminal Investigator Training Programs (BNCITP), and 3 Periodic Refresher Training Programs. In an attempt to meet the demand expressed by the community for the IGTTP, an additional class has been added to the schedule. The next scheduled class is



IG Criminal Investigator Academy Update (continued)

the BNCITP which is filled to capacity, and begins on January 22, 2007.

As the Academy gets its basic foundations established again, attention will be turned to

developing a 2008 training schedule and a sound business plan for the future while meeting the law enforcement training needs of the community.

National Procurement Fraud Task Force Update

At the November 29 meeting of the Investigations Committee, Brian Miller, IG, GSA, provided an update of the Task Force's efforts. He noted that at their November 9 kick-off meeting, the Task Force formed a number of regional working groups, with the intention to increase the number and location of such groups as procurement fraud cases are worked and prosecuted.

IG Miller also outlined his vision for the operation of the Task Force. He sees the Task Force itself acting as a steering committee, with substantive committees providing leadership and driving the efforts in their particular areas.

The following are the current committees and their chairs:

Fraud—Glenn Fine

Information Sharing—Brian Miller

Intelligence—Ned McGuire

Iraq—Chip Burrus

Legislation—Rick Skinner

Private Sector Relations—Harold Damelin

Training—David Williams

IG Miller asked Investigations Committee members to consider joining a committee. He also announced that a website for the Task Force is being developed and will be available soon and that he is working with the FBI to establish a secure calendar function and case referral form on LEO. In closing, IG Miller requested that each IG provide him with 2–3 procurement fraud cases which have stalled in U.S. Attorney's Offices; these cases will be used to "jump start" the Task Force's efforts.

Mutual Notification Arrangement between FBI and OIGs

Rich Rohde, AIGI, SSA, raised an issue relating to the mutual notification arrangement between the FBI and the OIG community, as a result of discussion of this issue at a recent Investigations Subcommittee meeting. The 2003 Attorney General guidelines require individual OIGs to inform the FBI of every open investigation, and require the FBI to do the same for cases pertinent to the specific OIG. It is the experience of the IG community that while OIGs routinely make such notifications, they rarely receive similar notice from the FBI. AIGI Rohde suggested that there

might be a better way to execute this requirement to the advantage of both the FBI and the OIGs, perhaps notifying a single location identified by the FBI via electronic media to speed and streamline the process. The current process for paper notification is viewed as burdensome and time-consuming. Committee members noted experiences similar to SSA's and agreed that an alternative approach needs to be easy and reasonable. Pat O'Carroll and Glenn Fine committed to raising the Committee's views on this issue with the FBI.