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## Investigations Committee

# NEWSLETTER

September 12, 2006

## Peer Review Activities

The Investigations Committee is undertaking a number of ambitious initiatives relating to the peer review process. One effort involves an assessment of the current *Peer Review Guide*, developed in 2004, to determine if revisions are necessary. The other involves the compilation of investigative "best practices" for sharing with the entire OIG community.

A team of six Assistant Inspectors General for Investigations (AIGI) has been assembled to review the current peer review guidelines and produce a revised draft for the consideration of the Investigations Committee. The team will endeavor to more clearly link the peer review guide to specific provisions from the PCIE investigations standards, the Attorney General's guidelines and other authorities. The team also will address related issues, determining whether a need exists for peer review training and whether reviews might be made more standardized. Team members include:

John Hartman, Energy; John DeDona, State; Peggy Fischer, NSF; Steve Nesbitt, EPA; Jim O'Neill, VA; and Mark Woods, Agriculture.

A workgroup consisting of members from the PCIE/ECIE Investigations Advisory Committee and the Council of Counsels to the IGs will identify examples of best practices to assist the IGs in addressing investigative questions or areas of concern. The intent of this activity is not to create a manual that must be followed, but rather to illuminate the practices of IGs who have experienced the same or similar issues. As a first step, PCIE/ECIE members have been asked to provide policy improvement areas that they or peer reviews have identified as well as procedures that they or a peer review believe represent a "best practice" for their organizations. John Hartman, AIGI, Energy, and David Gray, Counsel to the IG, Agriculture, are leading this effort.

## Polygraph Requirement for JTTF Members

As a result of its recent effort to require polygraphs for all of its agents with access to national security information, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has advised that all participants in Joint Terrorism Task Forces (JTTF) with access to such information will also need to be polygraphed. In a July 20 release, the FBI announced that all new, non-FBI JTTF candidates must successfully complete a polygraph before gaining access to a JTTF.

Concern was expressed about the applicability

of this requirement to investigators from agency OIGs who serve with or assist the JTTFs.

FBI Security Division Assistant Director Charlie Phalen has noted that the polygraph requirement only pertains to active JTTF participants requiring access to FBI databases. OIG investigators who are "ad hoc" members of JTTFs do not need polygraphs. Deputy Assistant Director Jeff Berkin will address the AIGI on this issue on September 7.

Upcoming Meeting:  
Thursday, September 28,  
at the ITC Building  
(Room 839)  
in Washington, D.C.

## 2007 ADI Conference

The 2007 Conference of the Association of Directors of Investigations will take place at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Glynco, Georgia. The Conference is tentatively scheduled for March 2007.