



**United States Department of State
and the Broadcasting Board of Governors
Office of Inspector General**

**Review of the Bureau of Diplomatic Security's
Revocation Process for Security Clearances**

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) determined that the Department of State's (Department) Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS) equitably administers the process for the revocation of security clearances, known as the adverse action process. DS investigators' and adjudicators' actions appeared free of bias or prejudice and were based on specified investigative and adjudicative guidelines and on Department standards.

However, DS does not have a process to follow up on those cases that contained a conditional reinstatement of the security clearance. In six of the 31 closed cases that reinstated an employee's clearance based on the employee meeting certain conditions, DS only followed up on one case to ensure that all conditions of the reinstatement had been met.

Employees can appeal the proposed revocation of their security clearance to a three-member appeals panel, but the appeals panel does not have a specified time frame in which to meet. This may further delay the process. In the cases examined, the appeals panel took from three to 13 months to render the Department's final decisions after DS had transmitted the employees' appeals.

OIG also reviewed DS compliance with recommendations from an earlier inspection of the DS Directorate of Security Infrastructure, which called for DS to implement internal controls and to establish procedures to be certain that files are complete and meet federal standards before granting a security clearance. OIG closed the recommendations because DS had instituted internal controls and established a quality assurance section to review investigative and adjudicative files for completeness.

This review was prompted in part because of allegations that DS does not promptly, efficiently, and fairly investigate and adjudicate security clearance suspensions, wasting government resources and placing Department employees' careers and reputations at risk.

OIG Report ISP-I-06-43, Review of the Bureau of Diplomatic Security's Revocation Process for Security Clearances

The fieldwork for this report was conducted by the Office of Inspections in Washington, DC, between March 21 and May 19, 2006. This is an unclassified summary of a full report, which receives limited official distribution. Both the report summary and the full report reflect the conditions reviewed during the fieldwork.

Office of Inspector General

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