

United States General Accounting Office Washington, D.C. 20548

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National Security and International Affairs Division

B-256597

March 4, 1994

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye Chairman The Honorable Frank R. Lautenberg Subcommittee on Defense Committee on Appropriations United States Senate

This correspondence responds to your request for preliminary information on the review we are conducting for you on personnel security clearance issues. On February 24, 1994, we briefed your staff on our preliminary analysis of questionnaire data received from executive branch agencies. In summary, the analysis shows that for fiscal year 1993, executive branch agencies spent about \$325 million on security clearance investigations, of which about \$20 million went to contractors who performed investigations. Also, about 3.2 million employees are reported as having security clearances, of which about 2.3 million are executive branch employees and about 853,000 are contractor employees. It is important to point out that the data collected does not include information from the Central Intelligence Agency.

Enclosed are detailed summaries showing estimated agencyby-agency cost data (encl. 1) and aggregate data on the number of security clearances held by executive branch and contractor personnel (encl. 2).

As agreed, we will be reporting later this year on these and other issues you asked us to review. Should you have any questions or need further assistance please contact my Associate Director, David Warren, or me at (202) 512-8412.

Donna Heivilin

Director, Defense Management

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Enclosures - 2

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ENCLOSURE 1 ENCLOSURE 1

AGENCY COST ESTIMATES FOR PERSONNEL SECURITY INVESTIGATIONS

Executive agency/office	In-house <u>cost</u>	Reimbursement <u>cost</u> *	Contract cost	Total
Council of Economic Advisers ^b				
Department of Commerce	\$89,500°	\$964,550	\$567 ,111	\$1,621,161°
Arms Control and Disarmament Agency	2,699	159,300		161,999
Agency for International Development	686,441	30,957°	644,154°	1,361,55 2 °
Board for International Broadcasting	17,082°	2,375		19,457°
Central Intelligence Agency				
Department of Defense	180,565,374	9,957,050	2,120,000	192,642,424
Department of Energy	5,116,000	57,289,000	6,663,000	69,068,000
Department of Education		5,000		5,000
Export-Import Bank of the U.S.		87,108		87,108
Farm Credit Administration	8,420°	35,925		44,345°
Department of Transportation	646,000	1,025,627		1,671,627
Environmental Protection Agency	320,000°	677,623		997,623°
Federal Communications Commission	30,000°	16,000		46,000°
Federal Emergency Management Agency		382,000		382,000
Federal Reserve System		103,790		103,790
Department of Health and Human Services	53,000	347,700		400,700
Interstate Commerce Commission		44,469		44,469
Department of Interior		2,343°		2,343°
Department of Labor ^b				
Federal Maritime Commission	125	150		275
General Services Administration	249,069°	306,827°		555,896°
Department of Housing and Urban Development	168,364	675,378		843,742
International Trade Commission		23,000		23,000
Department of Justice	11,349,288°	23,142,230°	3,986,704°	38,478,222°
Marine Mammal Commission	17,082°	1,350		18,432°
Merit Systems Protection Board	629°	5,800		6,429°
National Aeronautics and Space Administration	785,000	969,050	625,000	2,379,050
Nuclear Regulatory Commission	213,543	526,008	26,889	766,440

ENCLOSURE 1 ENCLOSURE 1

Executive agency/office	In-house <u>cost</u>	Reimbursement cost*	Contract cost	Total
National Security Council ^b				
Office of Administration	\$82,500			\$82,500
Office of Personnel Management	4,725			4,725
National Archives and Records Administration	125,000	262,000		387,000
National Science Foundation		35,000		35,000
Office of Management and Budget	1,000°			1,000°
Overseas Private Investment Corporation*				
Office of the Vice President ^b				
President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board	d			
Small Business Administration		68,775		68,775
Securities and Exchange Commission		24,175		24,175
Department of State	2,055,336	151,000	4,190,000	6,396,336
Tennessee Valley Authority	1,000°	6,300		7,300°
Office of Science and Technology Policy ^b				
Peace Corps of the U.S.	48,186	14,404	127,513	190,103
President's Intelligence Oversight Board				
Selective Service System	142°	186		328°
Department of Treasury	472,958°	398,412°	781,223°	1,652,593°
Department of Agriculture	177,000	1,561,973		1,738,973
Department of Veterans Affairs		308,500		308,500
U.S. Trade Representative		7,825		7,825
U.S. Postal Service	76,510	3,168		79,678
U.S. Information Agency	<u>1.205.017</u>	<u>156,600</u>	<u>465,093</u>	1.826,710
Total	\$204.566,990°	\$99.778.928 °	20.196.687° \$	324.542.605°

^{*}Reimbursement cost to other federal agencies.

Source: Executive agencies' responses to Personnel Security Investigation and Clearance Questionnaire.

^bAgency/office reported zero cost for personnel security investigations.

^{*}Figures are estimates submitted by agencies/offices for cost associated with personnel security investigations.

^dAgency/office did not submit cost figures for personnel security investigations.

^{*}Figures were included in the Agency for International Development's totals.

ENCLOSRUE 2

CLEARANCE LEVELS FOR FEDERAL AND CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEES (INCLUDING MILITARY)

Employees	Top Secret	Secret (S)	Confidential (C)	Total estimated number of clearances	Sensitive Compartment Information (SCI)
Federal (including Military)	535,119	1,718,638	113,585	2,367,342	233,982
Contractor	<u>232.970</u>	580.149	39.592	852,711	22.417
Estimated Total	768.089	2.298.787	<u>153.177</u>	<u>3.220.053</u>	256.399

Source: Executive agencies' responses to Personnel Security Investigation and Clearance Questionnaire.

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