

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Office of Inspector General

Challenges Remain In Executing the Department of Homeland Security's Information Technology Program For Its Intelligence Systems

Unclassified Summary





**Homeland
Security**

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Information Technology Program For Its Intelligence Systems
OIG-08-48

We evaluated the security program and practices for the Department of Homeland Security's Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information systems according to Federal Information Security Management Act requirements. We focused on the security program management, implementation, and system administration of the department's intelligence activities.

The objective of our evaluation was to determine whether the department is properly protecting Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information and the systems that support the department's intelligence operations and assets. We assessed the effectiveness of the information systems security controls for the department's intelligence systems, and the remediation of the findings that we reported as a result of our Fiscal Year 2006 assessment. Fieldwork was conducted from June through October 2007, at the following organizational components: Office of Intelligence and Analysis, Transportation Security Administration, and United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Much progress has been made in establishing an enterprise-wide information technology security program that supports the department's intelligence operations and assets. The Office of Intelligence and Analysis, formally established to implement the security program for the department's intelligence systems, is taking an active role in the management and governance of the security for intelligence systems across the department. Procedural and operational issues, however, remain regarding the effectiveness of the implementation of the department's intelligence security program and system controls. Furthermore, the department has not yet fully addressed the issues and recommendations that we reported in Fiscal Year 2006.

To better manage and execute the responsibilities regarding the department's information technology security program for its intelligence systems, we recommended that the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, through the Director, Information Sharing and Knowledge Management, issue formal guidance for the department's intelligence activities and establish an information systems' security education, training, and awareness program for intelligence personnel. We also recommended that the Office of the Chief Information Officer address the system control issues that we identified during

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our review. Department of Homeland Security management officials agreed with our findings and advised that they are taking actions to address the recommendations in our report. (OIG-08-48, April 2008, IT)

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