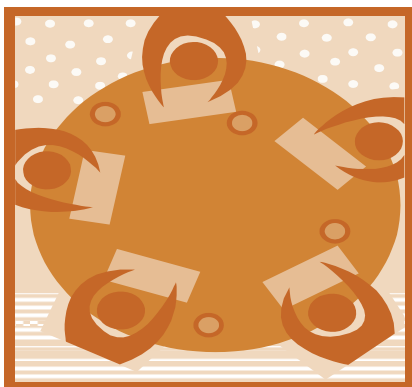


Inspection and Evaluation Committee

President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency

November 2008



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**FOR MORE
INFORMATION...**

For more information about any item in this newsletter, or to contribute suggestions for future newsletters, please contact Anne Bracken at anne.bracken@oig.hhs.gov.

ANNUAL PCIE/ECIE AWARDS

The 11th Annual PCIE/ECIE Awards ceremony was held on October 21. Nine awards for Excellence in Evaluation were presented. We will highlight two award winners in this issue.

Department of State, Department of Defense, and Department of Justice Interagency Assessment Team

Exceptional performance during the interagency assessment of the United States Counternarcotics Program in Afghanistan.



This assessment was a timely review of an increasing problem: the flood of raw opium from Afghanistan. The project was a unique effort, with Inspectors General representatives from three Departments participating.

The team evaluated the overall effectiveness of United States

strategy, management structure, and interagency coordination.

Their work spanned the United States, Europe, and Afghanistan. Having representatives from three Departments allowed the team to address several broad topics, including the Afghan Government, cross-cutting factors, and regional issues.

The final, wide-ranging product contained 27 recommendations directed to the Departments of State, Defense, and Justice. The team recognized that a U.S.-only effort was insufficient; a robust effort on the part of the Afghan Government was critical. The team also identified several cross-cutting factors needing improvement, including security, policy prioritization, resource availability, contracting, interagency coordination, and the use of air fleets. Regional issues focused primarily on international cooperation.

For a complete copy of the report, visit <http://oig.state.gov/documents/organization/90158.pdf>.

SAVE THE DATE

The I&E Training Conference is scheduled for June 16–17, 2009. Details to come!

Environmental Protection Agency Program Evaluation Team

Outstanding contribution made by the audit team in helping to identify and strengthen EPA's Program Evaluation Capabilities.



This review evaluated the results of 51 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) programs which were assessed using the Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART). To earn a high PART rating, a program must use performance data to manage and justify its resources based on the performance it expects to achieve.

The review found that nearly 60 percent of EPA programs did not conduct program evaluations of sufficient scope and quality. Further, EPA did not have an organizational component charged with conducting evaluations, nor did the Agency allocate sufficient resources to conduct evaluations. Currently, EPA spends about \$1 million per year, or 0.01 to 0.03 percent of its budget, on program evaluations.

The team worked closely with EPA program officials and developed meaningful recommendations which resulted in EPA's Deputy Administrator taking immediate action to reorganize and establish a separate organizational component within EPA's Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation (OPEI) to develop

more rigorous program evaluation capabilities for EPA. At OPEI's first meeting, the group decided to: (1) require EPA's program offices to submit annual program evaluation plans, (2) set up a centralized fund to pay for larger scale program evaluations, and (3) increase funding for performing program evaluations.

For a complete copy of the report, visit <http://www.epa.gov/oig/reports/2007/20070912-2007-P-00033.pdf>.

HOW EVALUATION EXPERTISE CONTRIBUTED TO RECENT DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE WORK



The Department of Justice (DOJ) has recently released many blockbuster reports, including a series of reviews looking into politicized hiring within the DOJ. We asked DOJ representatives to describe how their Evaluations and Inspections Division contributed to those reviews and here is what they had to say:

“A complex, multidisciplinary effort that included analysts from the Office of Inspector General's (OIG) Evaluation and Inspections (E&I) Division contributed the statistical analyses to a recent series of reviews from DOJ's OIG and the Office of

Professional Responsibility into allegations that hiring decisions for career positions at DOJ had become politicized.

“E&I analysts used their analytical expertise to examine whether applicants for DOJ's prestigious Honors Program and Summer Law Intern Program had been improperly screened for political and ideological affiliations. Throughout the effort, E&I analysts shared information and analyses they developed with OIG colleagues involved in related reviews examining other aspects of DOJ hiring and dismissal decisions.

“In the end, the review found that several screening officials at DOJ had inappropriately used political or ideological affiliations to deselect candidates applying for DOJ's Honors Program and Summer Law Intern Program. In addition, a related review found that staff in the Office of the Attorney General had improperly considered political or ideological affiliations in screening candidates for career positions.”

To see the reports discussed here, visit <http://www.usdoj.gov/oig/special/index.htm>.