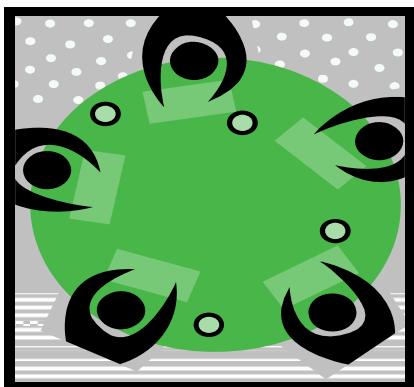


Inspection and Evaluation Committee

President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency

March 2007



INSPECTION AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

JOHNNIE FRAZIER

IG Commerce, Chair

CHRISTINE BOESZ

IG NSF

CARL CLINEFELTER

IG FCA

GLENN FINE

IG Justice

H. DAVID KOTZ

IG Peace Corps

HOWARD KRONGARD

IG State

DANIEL LEVINSON

IG HHS

GEORGE OPFER

IG VA

JON RYMER

IG FDIC



UPCOMING MEETINGS

Energy OIG will host the next I&E Roundtable meeting in May. Look for more information in April's newsletter or contact Erin Reuther at ereuther@oig.doc.gov.

COMMERCE OIG HOSTS JOINT I&E COMMITTEE AND ROUNDTABLE MEETING

On March 8th, I&E Committee Chair Johnnie Frazier welcomed Committee and Roundtable members to the Commerce Department for a joint meeting of the two groups. The meeting focused around the theme "We're In It Together" and how the I&E community can work together across agency lines. The meeting was widely attended, with over 30 members in attendance. IGs Clinefelter, Kotz, and Rymer were among the attendees.

Meeting participants reported on the many efforts by different OIGs to work together on crosscutting issues or to lend expertise or provide advice. This included Defense and Veterans Affairs (VA) who are working together on a review of how the two departments move people and their healthcare benefits from Defense to VA. Also, State, Defense, Justice, and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) are coordinating their efforts to counter narcotics in Afghanistan. IG Frazier emphasized the importance of working together as agents of change and breaking down barriers to cooperation that limit our poten-

tial. He stated that members of the OIG community should continue to leverage each others' expertise.

ONGOING JOINT PROJECTS

The I&E Committee and Roundtable members discussed several projects that emphasize cross-agency coordination. Members discussed the ongoing efforts in the OIG community to identify ways to strengthen management and oversight of the federal workers' compensation program and reduce fraud in the program.

Another project, Trade Promotion Coordination, resulted from Congress asking seven IGs (State, Commerce, Agriculture, Treasury, Small Business Administration, USAID, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation) to review how each of their agencies coordinates its trade promotion activities with other public and private trade organizations. Several cross-cutting issues were addressed during this review which was conducted by OIG inspection and audit offices: (1) there should be greater interagency involvement in the development of the National Export Strategy and federal export promotion goals; (2) trade lead development and dissemination need to be strengthened and the leads should be consolidated and available to U.S. businesses via a unified internet source; (3) a one-stop source for U.S.

government information on exporting and trade promotion programs is also needed; and, (4) Commerce and State should continue to work closely together to provide support to all U.S. overseas missions that provide commercial services to U.S. companies.

also be visiting colleges to participate in other training activities.

Several proposed joint reviews were also discussed during the meeting. Jill Schamberger, NSF OIG, presented information on her office's recent reviews on the publication of

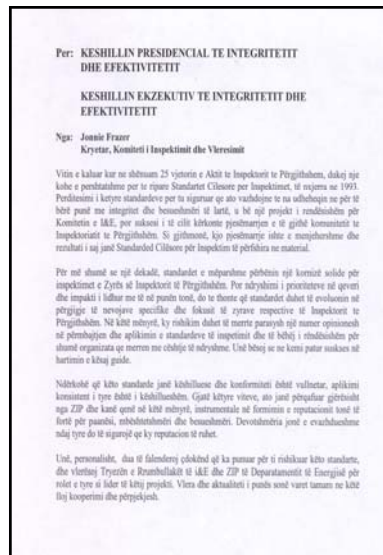
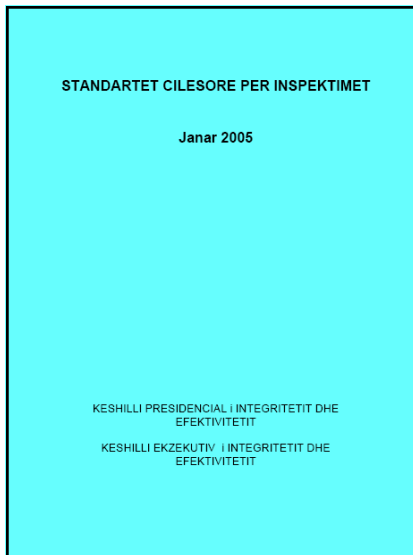
methods for tracking recommendations could be a valuable tool for an OIG.

I&E TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Training within the I&E community was another item discussed at the meeting. IG Frazier emphasized the

“Standartet Cilesore Per Inspektimet.”

IG Frazier also announced that the PCIE I&E Quality Standards are now available in Albanian. They were recently translated and used to train inspectors who oversee Albania's government agencies. The translated version is titled “Standartet Cilesore Per Inspektimet.”



importance of recruiting, training, and retaining I&E staff and the need to coordinate and share training opportunities. He encouraged the I&E Committee and Roundtable members to identify some of the valuable and effective courses they have participated in and share that information

The Albanian government will be using the inspection standards as part of its efforts to provide a mechanism for IG-like operations for greater accountability in the government. A delegation from Albania will travel to Washington, D.C. and New York and meet with the Commerce IG and other IGs to gain a better understanding of the IGs' role in combating fraud, waste, and abuse. The delegation will

federally funded scientific research. NSF OIG issued reports in December 2004, February 2006, and September 2006 on how federal research agencies hold grant recipients accountable. NSF OIG found that many stakeholders supported the agency doing more to ensure federally funded research is published. NSF OIG is willing to share its methodology on performing this type of review with other OIGs.

with the community. He also provided a list of I&E training needs that I&E units identified in the past and asked Committee and Roundtable members to identify their priority training needs or any additions to the list. He asked OIGs who conduct in-house courses to please offer extra slots for other members of the I&E community.

USDA OIG also presented information on a potential joint project. With a fairly new I&E unit, USDA OIG is looking to pull together best practices for tracking recommendations and conducting follow-up on I&E reports. IG Frazier noted that follow-up is important in the OIG community and learning the best

In closing, I&E Committee Chair Frazier highlighted the upcoming PCIE/ECIE IG retreat as an opportunity for the I&E community to present its recent accomplishments in the I&E Committee's annual report. Please send any information on joint projects or cross-cutting issues and shared expertise within the community to Jill Gross (jgross@oig.doc.gov) or Erin Reuther (ereuther@oig.doc.gov).

GET THE SCOOP!

For more information about any item in this newsletter, contact Erin Reuther at 202-482-4069 (ereuther@oig.doc.gov) or Jill Gross at 202-482-2754 (jgross@oig.doc.gov).