

Inspection and Evaluation Committee

President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency

October 2005



INSPECTION AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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CARL CLINEFELTER
IG FCA
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IG Justice
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IG Labor
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IG State
DANIEL LEVINSON
IG HHS



UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next I&E Roundtable meeting will be held January 26. The I&E Committee will meet in early February. Details will be in our next newsletter. Please contact Erin Reuther, Jill Gross, or Johnnie Frazier if you can host one of these meetings.

JOINT I&E COMMITTEE AND ROUNDTABLE MEETING WIDELY ATTENDED

On October 6, more than 50 representatives from 25 I&E Committee and Roundtable agencies attended the annual joint I&E Committee and Roundtable meeting. Hosted by Commerce IG and Committee Chair Johnnie Frazier, the meeting brought together IGs, AIGs, DAIGs, and Inspection and Evaluation members from throughout the federal OIG community.

The meeting began with a brief overview of Commerce's two I&E units and highlighted some of Commerce OIG's recent inspection and evaluation work. Mr. Frazier also discussed the efforts by several OIGs to oversee Hurricane Katrina relief and recovery. He urged I&E members to work together to deal with crosscutting issues and identify areas where joint initiatives by several OIGs could have cumulative benefits. Presentations on several current joint OIG projects were made at the meeting and are discussed below.

OIG WORKERS' COMPENSA- TION WORK EXPECTED TO PRODUCE GREAT DIVIDENDS

The I&E Roundtable working group is making significant progress in coordinating projects on workers' compensation programs in various federal agencies. The U.S. government spends over \$2 billion annually on workers' compensation, and our initial observations indicate that there are significant opportunities to improve efficiencies and program management, and save money.

Interior, Labor, US Postal Service, Veterans Administration, Education, and Commerce OIGs have completed or are in the process of doing Federal Employees Compensation Act (FECA) work in their respective agencies. They are making tremendous headway in part because the OIGs are working closely together to share fraud indicators, best practices, patterns/cases of abuse, and areas of management neglect or mismanagement.

Commerce OIG's Christine Shafik is currently leading a major evaluation of the Commerce workers' compensation program. She presented some of her team's initial findings to the working group and at the October 6 I&E Committee/Roundtable meeting. As fieldwork continues, Commerce is compiling reports, questionnaires, and best practices from federal agencies and OIGs—materials that might be of interest to other OIGs planning similar reviews. For details about the Commerce evaluation, contact Christine Shafik at cshafik@oig.doc.gov.

ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK WELCOME ON I&E DISASTER PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

The I&E Disaster Preparedness working group has made significant progress on the inter-agency best practices guide on disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. The working group, headed by Jim Seacord of the Defense Intelligence Agency OIG has incorporated comments from the working group members into the second draft and plans to present the guide for comment to the full I&E Committee and Roundtable shortly. We hope to issue the guide by December.

If you have questions or would like additional information on this project, please contact Jim Seacord at james.seacord@dia.mil.

TRAINING NEWS

CORE COMPETENCIES WORKING GROUP ISSUES FINAL REPORT

In August 2005, the PCIE/ECIE HR Committee's working group, chaired by Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. IG Robert Emmons, finalized its report, "IG Training: A More Consolidated Approach Can Increase Efficiency and Improve Quality." The HR Committee presented it to the PCIE/ECIE IGs in September. The report explores options for consolidating and enhancing OIG community training to increase efficiency and effectiveness. It recommends consolidating the three IG training organizations (IGATI, IGCIA, and IGMI), establishing an overarching governance mechanism for them, and adopting a more integrated approach to training. The report also emphasizes the need for a long-term financial plan to provide stable funding for the consolidated training center, permanent and consistent oversight and leadership, and an expanded curriculum that will anticipate and address the needs of all key professionals in the OIG community, including evaluators, inspectors, IT specialists, attorneys, general managers as well as auditors and investigators. The chairs of the PCIE Audit and Investigations Committees are preparing a response to the report's recommendations.

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).

I&E COMMUNITY CONTINUES TO SHARE TRAINING

DHS OIG'S INTERVIEW TRAINING IS WELL RECEIVED

The Department of Homeland Security OIG hosted three training sessions on enhancing interviewing skills in August and September. DHS offered space in the classes to other I&E units, and representatives from Defense Intelligence Agency, Energy, and Commerce were among the 72 attendees.

The course taught participants the key points about conducting and managing the interview process, including how to:

- schedule an interview;
- initiate the interview and keep it on track;
- handle hostile or reluctant interviewees;
- be a careful listener;
- form and ask dynamic questions;
- involve all members of your team in the interview process; and
- document the outcome.

Thanks to DHS OIG for sharing your training program with other OIGs.

NEW TRAINING OPPORTUNITY!

The National Science Foundation's IG, Christina Boesz, just announced that some slots are available to other OIGs and I&E units for NSF's grant/fraud indicator workshop on October 12. If you are interested, please contact Matt Quinn at 703-292-7100.

If you are offering training opportunities that would benefit the I&E community, please contact Erin Reuther at ereuther@oig.doc.gov.

VARIOUS COMMITTEE PROJECTS UNDER CONSIDERATION

At the October Committee/Roundtable meeting, Johnnie Frazier and other members discussed new project ideas. Topics under consideration for joint OIG work include memorandums of understanding; federal agency overseas operations—rightsizing/resources, security, or trade promotion activities; misconduct in federal research activities and protocols; healthcare; procurement; and homeland security.

If your OIG is interested in taking the lead on a project or in participating as part of the project team, please contact Jill Gross, I&E Roundtable chair, at 202-482-2754 (jgross@oig.doc.gov) or Christine Shafik at 202-482-2189 (cshafik@oig.doc.gov).

DIRECTORY OF OIG REPORTS ON PURCHASE AND TRAVEL CARD USAGE CONTINUES TO HAVE VALUE

Credit card usage has received renewed attention as the Hurricane Katrina relief and recovery efforts get under way and government credit cards are being used for some of the relief efforts. As OIGs do additional work on credit card usage, we remind you to consult the Committee's *A Practical Guide for Reviewing Government Purchase Card Programs*, issued in 2002 and available on IG Net.

We also refer you to the I&E Committee's online directory of OIG reports on federal purchase card usage, which contains over 120 OIG reports. Such reports can be useful as you do work in this area. Please continue to send web site links for newly completed reports on either of these topics to Eleazar Velezquez at avelazquez@oig.doc.gov.