



Investigations Committee

NEWSLETTER

July 10, 2007

OIGs' Law Enforcement Response During Emergencies

At the June 20 Investigations Committee meeting, Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Special Agent (SA) Michelle Schmitz provided a briefing on Emergency Support Function (ESF) #13 and the OIGs' role in its implementation.

In the summer of 2006, OPM OIG was tasked to develop a draft memorandum of understanding between the IG community and the Department of Justice (DOJ) on emergency response in a national emergency. The draft was sent to DOJ for review and that agency noted that the OIGs' role should instead be documented in the National Response Plan for ESF #13, where the OIGs will be listed as supporting agencies. The role of the PCIE/ECIE will be to coordinate community-wide response in the event of an emergency.

SA Schmitz informed the Committee that the

Emergency Response Catalog Form is being sent out to the IG community for development of a database and requested a central point of contact for the OIG community. DHS IG Rick Skinner will serve in this capacity.

Norm Brown, in the DHS OIG, is collecting OIG responses to the Catalog Form. At the same time, they are developing procedures with the U.S. Marshalls office for mass deputation and coordination with States for local deputation, to assure that OIG staff have the appropriate legal authority in an emergency situation. Regarding funding, SA Schmitz pointed out that under the Stafford Act, FEMA cannot reimburse for salaries but can provide payment for travel, overtime, and supplies.

Response plan training will be offered this summer for 3 days, either in the D.C. area or Emmitsburg, MD.

Peer Review Guide Update

The original peer review guide for the OIG investigations community was finalized in the 2003–2004 time period and is now being updated. A team of six members has developed a second draft which will attempt to streamline the guide, eliminate duplication, give better definition of terms, change the rating system, and introduce best practices. The AIGI Committee hopes to send the draft to the Chair, Investigations Committee, within the next month for the

Committee's consideration. Any current reviews should use the existing guidelines.

In addition, John Hartman, Chair, AIGI Committee, is working with Chuck Coe, AIG for Audits and Cyber Crime Investigations, Department of Education, to examine computer forensic operations and integrate that process into the Peer Assessment Review. The next step will be to include this topic on the agenda for the next Investigations Committee meeting.

IG Academy Update

Angela Hrdlicka, IG CIA Executive Director, provided a comprehensive briefing on IG Academy accomplishments, activities, and initiatives at the June 20 Investigations Committee meeting. She discussed a number of

topics, including the Academy's vision, mission, and goals, as well as future curriculum plans and funding proposals. Ms. Hrdlicka will reprise her presentation for the full PCIE at its July 10 meeting.

Investigations Committee Members

Patrick P. O'Carroll, Jr.
IG SSA, Chair
Christine Boesz
IG NSF
Paul Brachfield
IG NARA
Charles Coe
AIG DOE
Glenn Fine
IG DOJ
Donald Gambatesa
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Carl Hoecker
IG USCP
Brian Miller
IG GSA
George Opfer
IG DVA
Bill Roderick
Acting IG, EPA
Rick Skinner
IG DHS
Eric Thorson
IG SBA

Upcoming Meeting:
September 26 – 27,
2007 (NOTE DATE
CHANGE), FLETC,
Glynco, GA