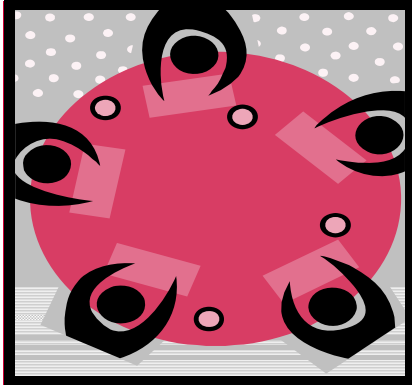


Inspection and Evaluation Committee

President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency

February 2006



INSPECTION AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

JOHNNIE FRAZIER
IG Commerce, Chair
CHRISTINE BOESZ
IG NSF
CARL CLINEFELTER
IG FCA
GLENN FINE
IG Justice
GORDON HEDDELL
IG Labor
HOWARD KRONGARD
IG State
DANIEL LEVINSON
IG HHS



UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next I&E Roundtable meeting will be held February 16th at the Veterans Affairs OIG. The I&E Committee will meet in March/April. Details will be sent via email.

FECA Symposium - March 22

OIG WORKERS' COMPENSATION SYMPOSIUM PLANNED FOR MARCH 2006

Labor IG Gordon Heddell and I&E Chair Johnnie Frazier plan to co-host an OIG workers' compensation symposium March 22, 2006 at the Department of Labor (DOL). The symposium will look at DOL's Federal Workers' Compensation Act (FECA) program and discuss key findings and recommendations from various OIG audits and inspections. A representative from Labor's Office of Workers' Compensation Program (OWCP) will provide an overview of its role and discuss that of the employing agencies. The symposium will also address a proposed protocol for coordinating federal OIG efforts to maximize their resources and the OIGs' potential impact on the management and costs of FECA programs throughout the federal government. Look for more information in the March I&E Committee newsletter.

AN EYE ON THE OIG WATCHDOGS: PREPARING TOMORROW'S OIG ACCOUNTABILITY PROFESSIONALS

I&E Chair Johnnie Frazier and Department of Agriculture IG Phyllis

Fong, spoke at the fourth annual Association of Government Accountants (AGA) conference in Washington, D.C. this month. They provided an overview of the wide range of backgrounds and varied expertise within the IG community.

The presentation highlighted the IG Act and noted that each IG is being asked to address an expanding, diverse set of management challenges. IG Frazier noted that in addition to traditional audit and investigation offices, OIGs often have I&E units. These represent a large and diverse group of experts, from doctors to IT specialists. He also emphasized that the IG community is continually building up its expertise through training programs, such as those offered at the IG Auditor Training Institute, the IG Criminal Investigator Academy, and the IG Management Institute. These 3 organizations are now being consolidated under a new Inspectors General Institute.

IGs Frazier and Fong further added that OIGs must also continually assess internal best practices and address crosscutting issues to enhance the government's accountability and provide agency managers with prevention techniques.

To highlight how this broad expansion of talent and related changes to the IG community are impacting government

and the public interest, IGs Fong and Frazier also discussed recent news and media reports. Some of the headlines and reports cited include:

DOC OIG Finds High Pressure Too Much for Wanted Weatherman

America’s Most Wanted
January 23, 2006

Livestock Agency Ignores Complaints, Probe Finds

Chicago Tribune
January 18, 2006

USDA OIG Finds Lax Oversight in Tests of Gene-Altered Crops

The New York Times
January 3, 2006

USDA Tests Again for Mad Cow Case

Omaha World-Herald
June 11, 2005

In their concluding remarks, IG Frazier and IG Fong quoted John F. Kennedy, saying “Change is the law of life, and those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future.”

BEST PRACTICES GUIDE FOR REVIEWING DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

The I&E Committee’s disaster preparedness guide is ready for review. The working group plans to present a revised draft to the full I&E Roundtable at the February 16 meeting. Jennifer Carmichael and

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).

Jim Seacord, both from the Defense Intelligence Agency OIG, helped lead the multi-agency OIG project. Together with the working group, they have developed the best practices guide to assist members of the OIG community as they conduct oversight of federal disaster and emergency preparedness efforts. It will highlight key areas of concern, lessons already learned from recent OIG work, and important reference materials. For more information, please contact Jennifer Carmichael (jcarmichael@dia.mil) or Jim Seacord (james.seacord@dia.mil).

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



The Inspector General Management Institute (IGMI) and the Inspector General Auditor Training Institute (IGATI) are two training resources available to the I&E community. The institutes provide opportunities for the IG community to participate in training that specifically addresses issues faced by an OIG and also offers courses for professional development.

IGMI currently is offering a course on handling OIG employee conduct and performance issues. As agencies continue to face human resource challenges, the IG community must ensure its own human resource practices are effectively promoting communication and career development, and improving performance. The IGMI course is geared towards those who have responsibility and oversight of OIG employees.

According to IGMI, the course will provide OIG team leaders, supervisors and managers with:

- the basic principles, terminology, and processing steps necessary to manage employee conduct and performance;
- the knowledge to deal effectively with employees and work with Employee Relations/Human Resources staff in properly identifying conduct and performance issues and addressing them in a timely manner;
- a review of good performance management practices; and
- case studies and practical exercises drawn from real examples in the OIG environment.

IGATI announced a new class, being held March 30 and June 12, that covers project management for OIG staff. Some of the skills and tools covered during the course include:

- definitions and conceptual aspects of today’s projects;
- estimating and establishing controls over a project;
- using the Earned Value Management system to project costs and track projects;
- project management tools;
- identifying criteria necessary to select a project manager;
- developing skills to plan; and
- ten obstacles to avoid.

If you have an upcoming training session and would like to offer slots to other OIGs, please contact Erin Reuther at ereuther@oig.doc.gov.