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PRESS RELEASE:

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL RELEASES
REPORT ON INTERAGENCY ASSESSMENT OF AFGHANISTAN
COUNTERNARCOTICS PROGRAMS**

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For further information contact:
Terry Heide at (202) 663-3080

WASHINGTON - Department of State Inspector General Howard J. Krongard publicly released today a report that assessed U. S. Government-funded counternarcotics programs in Afghanistan. The Interagency Assessment was issued jointly by the Inspectors General of the Departments of Defense and State, and the interagency assessment team also included staff from the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Justice. The team visited seven locations in Afghanistan, as well as London, Brussels, Vienna, and Washington, to observe facilities and interview senior U.S. and coalition civilian and military leaders, international partners, and Afghan officials. The report reflects conditions as of November 5, 2006. Findings, recommendations, and draft reports were provided in February 2007 to the appropriate offices in the Departments of Defense, Justice and State.

The assessment found that the Five Pillar approach of the U.S. Government to counternarcotics in Afghanistan is reasonable and comprehensive, but there are no quick fixes and achieving lasting success is a long-term proposition. The report noted that U.S. counternarcotics efforts depend on the Government of Afghanistan demonstrating both a firm determination and demonstrated ability to deal with the issues. During fiscal year 2006, the U.S. allocated more than \$420 million through Defense, Justice, State and the Agency for International Development for its Afghan counternarcotics programs. As this was dwarfed by the roughly \$38 billion "street value" if the entire Afghan poppy crop were converted to heroin, the assessment team found no realistic possibility of outspending economic incentives in the narcotics industry. Although economic development alone cannot adequately address counternarcotics, except possibly in the very long-term, the team believed that the Alternative Livelihood Program and the newly conceived Good Performers Fund held promise and should be continued.

The report further noted indications that 2007 poppy cultivation may equal or exceed 2006 levels and preliminary goals for eradication were not realistic. Security in the poppy producing provinces was viewed as a growing concern and necessitated further reliance on inadequate air support for execution of counternarcotics programs.

The assumption by the International Security Assistance Force of control over coalition military forces was thought by the team to impact counternarcotics efforts, and recommendations for closer international coordination were made. In all, 27 formal recommendations were made (many of which have been implemented) which the Defense and State Inspectors General believed would result in more effective, efficient, and economical counternarcotics operations.

The report is available on the Department of State Office of Inspector General website at <http://oig.state.gov>.

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