



HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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HR Committee reviews IGEL

Earl E. Devaney
Inspector General,
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Over the last several months, I have met with the PCIE/ECIE Human Resources Committee, SkillSoft representatives, and various learning professionals to discuss the future of e-learning in the IG community, particularly IGEL.

I also created an e-learning subcommittee to evaluate the IGEL pilot as well as assist me in making recommendations to the PCIE/ECIE in how to move forward after the SkillSoft contract ends December 3.

Originally, I had planned to present the strengths and weaknesses of IGEL to the PCIE/ECIE and then have the community vote on whether to continue IGEL. If the majority agreed to move forward, the administration of IGEL would then be transferred to the IG Institute.

Of course, after the demise of the IG Institute in September, I was left with a dilemma – if the community wanted to continue IGEL, who would take on the responsibilities of contracting, performing liaison duties, administering funds, and performing the daily technical support?

Unfortunately, there is no simple answer to this question. The HR Committee simply does not have the resources to continue the administration of IGEL, and after reaching out to several agencies, it seems no one is able to take on this endeavor for the community.

My staff and I then met with SkillSoft to discuss other contracting options. We agreed that if no other agency will take on the IGEL contract, each agency may have to contract with SkillSoft separately, maintain their own learning programs, and perform their administration duties.

Of course, each agency will have to work out the details for how they will contract with SkillSoft – using FedSource, GSA, or GoLearn.

While the idea behind the IGEL pilot was to create a community approach to learning, which I believe was successful and quite miraculous, the current environment in which we are operating has

caused us to look in a new direction.

It is my hope that once the community is ready and we have successfully rebuilt our learning institutions, we can look toward creating community-wide online learning programs and courses and find ways to blend online and classroom training.

As an alternative to IGEL, some OIGs may opt to obtain online training from their respective agencies.

I will be pursuing a contract with SkillSoft so that my staff has access to the 2 investigations courses (Bloodborne Pathogens and Flying Armed); the Books 24X7 software, which I believe to be a valuable resource; and courses that allow my auditors to obtain CPE credit, which has saved my office a considerable amount of money. My Department's e-learning software does not offer these opportunities.

For others who would like to join me in continuing IGEL, please contact Jeff Federman from SkillSoft directly (301-581-9589). SkillSoft anticipates that the price will be under \$30 per person; however, depending on the contracting method each agency chooses, the price may vary.

SkillSoft has also agreed to extend performance for one more month, at no additional cost, to allow time for each office to contract separately. At the end of December, agencies that have chosen to forgo a new contract will not have access to IGEL.

Each agency that chooses to move forward will be responsible for designating an administrator to add and delete users, and SkillSoft will provide these individuals with the necessary training.

If anyone would like information regarding the results of the survey the IGEL subcommittee conducted, please contact Katie Balestra from my staff (202-208-5746).

Overall, the feedback we received from the survey was positive. Most OIGs would like to see more OIG-specific content, but this, of course, is up to us to develop.

I would like to thank everyone for their efforts in this endeavor and express my hope that we can bring the community together in the educational challenges we are currently facing as well as the ones ahead.