

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
Office of Inspector General

Evaluation of DHS' Security Program and
Practices For Its Intelligence Systems For
Fiscal Year 2008

Unclassified Summary





**Homeland
Security**

**Office of Inspector General
Evaluation of DHS' Security Program and Practices For Its
Intelligence Systems For Fiscal Year 2008
OIG-08-87**

We conducted an evaluation of the enterprise-wide security program and practices for the Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information systems under the Department of Homeland Security's purview. According to the Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002 requirements, our review focused on the department's security management, implementation, and evaluation aspects of its intelligence activities, including the policies, procedures, and system security controls in place for its enterprise-wide intelligence systems. In doing so, we primarily assessed the department's Plan of Action and Milestones, certification and accreditation, and incident reporting processes, as well as its security awareness training.

The objective of our evaluation was to determine whether the department is adequately and effectively protecting Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information and the systems that support the Department of Homeland Security's enterprise-wide intelligence operations and assets. Our independent evaluation focused on the department's information security program for its intelligence systems, at both the department level and at the organizational components. The organizational components included in our evaluation were the Intelligence and Analysis office and the United States Coast Guard.

During Fiscal Year 2008, the department has made significant progress in establishing an enterprise-wide information security management program for its intelligence systems. The department has compiled, updated, and maintained its enterprise-wide inventory of Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information systems, as well as those systems that support an intelligence mission regardless of the classification. The department's enterprise-wide intelligence systems are certified and accredited in accordance with the Director of Central Intelligence Directive 6/3. The department has accepted the accreditation of the U.S. Coast Guard intelligence system, which was previously certified and accredited by the U.S. Navy.

Some management oversight and operational issues remain regarding the effectiveness of the program. In addition, the department still needs to establish and implement a formal information systems' security education, training, and awareness program for employees with significant responsibilities for the department's intelligence systems. Fieldwork was conducted from May through August 2008. (OIG-08-87, August 2008, IT)

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