



Why This Matters

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) disposed of approximately \$3.3 billion worth of personal property between fiscal year 2008 and fiscal year 2010.

Federal agencies are required to reutilize excess property unless doing so causes serious hardship or is impractical or impairs operations. Personal property reutilization maximizes the return on taxpayers' dollars and minimizes expenditures for new procurements.

DHS Response

The USCG concurred or partially concurred with all of our recommendations, and is taking action to address them.

Identification, Reutilization, and Disposal of Excess Personal Property by the United States Coast Guard

What We Determined

The USCG did not have adequate policies, procedures, and processes to identify and screen, reutilize, and dispose of excess personal property properly. It did not consistently screen excess personal property for reutilization and did not follow existing policies for disposal, which in some cases were inadequate or contradictory. As a result, the USCG could not ensure that personal property was efficiently reutilized or properly disposed of to prevent unauthorized use or theft.

To ensure that excess personal property is effectively managed, the USCG's Property Accountability Division should:

1. Strengthen its organizational structure and enhance its monitoring and evaluation of USCG units.
2. Follow its existing guidance for the demilitarization of certain property.
3. Improve its oversight of classified personal property disposals.
4. Improve the accuracy and completeness of the USCG's primary personal property data system of record.

What We Recommend

We made recommendations to improve USCG's management and oversight personal property reutilization and disposal, including:

1. Defining and clarifying the USCG's Property Accountability Division's authorities and responsibilities over the reutilization and disposal processes.
2. Updating, clarifying, and de-conflicting USCG's Personal Property Management Manual.
3. Developing and implementing a demilitarization program, in coordination with the Department of Defense Demilitarization Office, that includes training and certification for USCG personnel who manage, oversee, or process personal property.
4. Developing and implementing a process to enter and track all classified personal property in USCG's system of record.
5. Conducting a formal organizational review of the current property management structure to assess, identify, and define property management resource requirements and to analyze the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to perform these jobs.
6. Enhancing USCG's training program for personal property management personnel.
7. Improving USCG's accountability processes for newly purchased computers.

For Further Information:

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