

Spotlight

Department of Homeland Security



Office of Inspector General

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Why This Matters

Public Law 106-531, Reports Consolidation Act of 2000, requires the Office of Inspector General, to update our assessment of DHS' major management challenges annually.

DHS Response

The Department concurs with the OIG's assessment that they have made progress in coalescing into an effective organization, as well as addressing its key mission areas to secure our nation's borders, increase our readiness and resiliency in the face of a terrorist threat or a natural disaster, and implement increased levels of security in our transportation systems and trade operations.

Major Management Challenges Facing the Department of Homeland Security

What We Determined

The department continues to move beyond operating as an organization in transition to a department diligently working to protect our borders and critical infrastructure, preventing dangerous people and goods from entering our country, and recovering from natural disasters effectively. However, while much progress has been done, the department still has much to do to establish a cohesive, efficient, and effective organization.

In FY 2011, we identified the following major management challenges, which are repeated from FY 2010:

- Acquisition Management
- Information Technology Management
- Emergency Management
- Grants Management
- Financial Management
- Infrastructure Protection
- Border Security
- Transportation Security
- Trade Operations and Security

What We Recommend

The report summarizes the results of several GAO and OIG reports and also highlights the actions of the Department to improve its management processes and tools. For example, in financial management, in FY 2010, the Department committed to obtaining a qualified opinion on the Balance Sheet and Statement of Custodial Activity. To that end, DHS continued to improve financial management in FY 2011 and has achieved a significant milestone. For FY 2011, DHS was able to produce an auditable balance sheet and statement of custodial activity; and the independent auditors rendered a qualified opinion on those financial statements.

For Further Information:

Contact our Office of Public Affairs at (202)254-4100, or email us at DHS-OIG.OfficePublicAffairs@dhs.gov