



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
INSPECTOR GENERAL
WASHINGTON, DC 20420



November 23, 2020

Thomas Kait
Assistant Inspector General for Special Reviews and Evaluations
Office of Inspector General
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC

Sondra F. McCauley
Assistant Inspector General for Audits
Office of Inspector General
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC

Dear Assistant Inspectors General Kait and McCauley:

This required external peer review was conducted in accordance with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) Inspection and Evaluation Committee guidance as contained in the *CIGIE Guide for Conducting Peer Reviews of Inspection and Evaluation Organizations of Federal Offices of Inspector General*. The peer review was conducted from June through September 2020.

The CIGIE External Peer Review Team (review team) consisted of experienced Office of Inspector General (OIG) inspection and evaluation professionals from the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, the Department of State, and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The review team conducted an external peer review of two offices within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) OIG: the Office of Audits and the Office of Special Reviews and Evaluations (collectively, DHS OIG).

The review team assessed the extent to which the DHS OIG met seven quality standards as required by the CIGIE *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation* (Blue Book), January 2012. These included: quality control, planning, data collections and analysis, evidence, records maintenance, reporting, and follow-up. This assessment included a review of DHS OIG's internal policies and procedures implementing the seven required Blue Book standards. The assessment also included a review of four selected inspection and evaluation reports issued between July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2020, to determine whether the reports complied with the covered Blue Book standards and DHS OIG's internal policies and procedures.

The review team determined that DHS OIG's internal policies and procedures generally met the seven covered Blue Book standards addressed in the external peer review, and the four

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reviewed reports generally met the Blue Book standards and complied with DHS OIG's internal policies and procedures.

There are no recommendations associated with this external peer review. We have included DHS OIG comments in the Agency Comments section (Enclosure).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Missal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

MICHAEL J. MISSAL
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Enclosure



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Department of Homeland Security

Washington, DC 20528 / www.oig.dhs.gov

November 13, 2020

The Honorable Michael J. Missal
Inspector General
Department of Veterans Affairs

Dear Inspector General Missal:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft results of the VA OIG's peer review of reports issued by the DHS OIG's Office of Special Reviews and Evaluations and the Office of Audits. We are pleased that this external peer review confirmed that our policies, procedures, and the four sampled reports generally met the seven standards outlined in the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency Quality Standards for Inspections and Evaluations (Blue Book).

This was the first peer review of the OIG's reports in accordance with Blue Book standards; your peer review team efficiently and effectively accomplished its work in the agreed upon time frames. The process and observations offered by the peer review team will help ensure that our program offices continue to conduct high quality work in a sound quality control environment. We appreciate the professionalism the peer review team demonstrated during its review.

Sincerely,

Thomas Kait
Assistant Inspector General for Special Reviews and Evaluations
Office of Inspector General
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Sondra F. McCauley
Assistant Inspector General for Audits
Office of Inspector General
U.S. Department of Homeland Security