The Inspector General of the Intelligence Community Addresses Security Clearance Processing Challenges

(June 10, 2019) At the annual coordination meeting between the U.S. Government Accountability Office and the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE), Inspector General of the Intelligence Community Michael K. Atkinson discussed the current challenges related to security clearance processing and the contributions various Offices of Inspectors Generals (OIGs) are making to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the process. As the Security Executive Agent for the Executive Branch, the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) has government-wide responsibility to develop, implement, and oversee effective, efficient, and uniform policies and procedures for security clearance and sensitive national security position investigations and adjudications. Last year an official with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence announced the implementation of a new initiative entitled, *Trusted Workforce 2.0*, which "convene[d] leaders in government and the private sector 'to identify and establish a new set of policy standards that will transform the U.S. government's approach to vetting its workforce, overhaul the enterprise business processes, and modernize information technology.'"

Inspector General Atkinson identified numerous ways OIGs can improve the security clearance process across the federal government, including by closing recommendations in a timely manner following audits, inspections, and other projects related to the security clearance process; ensuring their agencies are collecting required security clearance data and responding to calls to submit said data; and by testing the reliability of the above-mentioned data.

In its most recent Semiannual Report, the ICIG announced that, in collaboration with other Intelligence Community Inspectors General Forum members, the ICIG intends to examine the authorities, policies, and procedures vested in the DNI, as the Security Executive Agent, to determine their adequacy, and review organizations' efficiency and effectiveness in implementing the DNI's requirements. An ICIG working group, consisting of Audit and Inspections and Evaluations staff, issued a memorandum in November 2018 announcing the commencement of preliminary project research. The working group has engaged with multiple entities, including ODNI's National Counterintelligence and Security Center, which is responsible for managing the DNI's Security Executive Agent authorities and responsibilities. The ICIG is currently analyzing data to determine the scope and criteria for a forthcoming evaluation.

The ICIG's most recent Semiannual Report is available here: Full Report

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The Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 established the Office of the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community within the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. The ICIG's mission is to provide independent and objective oversight of the programs and activities within the responsibility and authority of the Director of National Intelligence, to initiate and conduct independent audits, inspections, investigations, and reviews, and to lead and coordinate the efforts of the Intelligence Community Inspectors General Forum. The ICIG's goal is to have a positive and enduring impact throughout the Intelligence Community, to lead and coordinate the efforts of an

integrated Intelligence Community Inspectors General Forum, and to enhance the ability of the United States Intelligence Community to meet national security needs while respecting our nation's laws and reflecting its values. The Forum consists of the twelve statutory and administrative Inspectors General having oversight responsibility for an element of the Intelligence Community. The Chair of the Forum is the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community.

For more information about the ICIG, please contact IC_IG_PAO@dni.gov or visit the ICIG's websites:
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