



OFFICE of the INSPECTOR GENERAL of the INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY
NEWS RELEASE

Audit of Integrity and Use of Security Clearance Data Reported to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence

(December 2023) The Director of National Intelligence, as the Security Executive Agent (SecEA), is responsible for assuring the quality, timeliness, consistency, and integrity of national security vetting practices. Congress and the SecEA use data concerning security clearance processing timeliness to inform decisions integral to overseeing the effectiveness of the security clearance process and reducing the security clearance backlog. This audit assessed the ability of the Intelligence Community (IC) elements and the SecEA to report accurate information about security clearance processing timeliness and identifies systemic data integrity challenges that affect the usefulness of data reported to the SecEA and Congress.

The IC IG found that multiple IC elements did not capture, document, or report accurate security clearance processing timeliness information. In addition, IC elements did not calculate processing timeliness in a consistent manner. Subsequent to our field work, the National Counterintelligence and Security Center (NCSC) issued additional guidance to the IC elements to improve the accuracy of security clearance processing timeliness information. NCSC also revamped internal procedures for validating and compiling information received from IC elements. Based on these actions, we did not issue recommendations to NCSC.

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