



**INSPECTOR GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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May 20, 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

**SUBJECT: DoD Office of the Inspector General Report, DODIG-2013-098,
"Assessment of U.S. Military Cemeteries," June 28, 2013**

This is to notify you that we are revising several statements in the subject DoD Office of Inspector General (DoD OIG) report to address errors identified by an internal DoD OIG quality assurance review. The internal quality assurance review concluded that the report, "Assessment of U.S. Military Cemeteries," June 28, 2013, did not comply fully with the standards for evidence contained in the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE), "Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation," (known as the Blue Book) and the DoD OIG, "SPO [Special Plans and Operations] Assessment Project Handbook."

To address this deficiency, we removed the statement in the 2013 report that we conducted our work, "...in accordance with *the Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation*. We planned and performed the assessment to obtain sufficient and appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our observations, conclusions, and recommendations based on our objectives." from Appendix A, "Scope and Methodology," on page 61 of the 2013 report.

In addition, we removed four judgmental statements from the 2013 report's narrative, because the internal review concluded that these statements were not adequately documented. Specifically, we removed the following statements from the 2013 report:

- The phrase on page 21 stating, "...but seems to refer to the Arlington National Cemetery and not the other cemeteries" from the subsection "Army" in the section titled "Reservations."
- The sentence on page 21 stating, "This was particularly important with respect to records accountability." from the subsection, "Air Force" in the section titled "Reservations."
- The sentence on page 22 stating, "The Air Force and Navy did not have guidance on disinterment of decedents from an installation cemetery." from the subsection, "Air Force and Navy" in the section titled "Disinterment."
- The phrase on page 37 stating, "...and the possibility of lawsuits" from "Observation 4. Issues with Contracting for Cemetery Services."

A copy of the revised report is attached and available at
<https://media.defense.gov/2013/Jun/28/2001712846/-1/-1/1/DODIG-2013-098.pdf>.

It is important to note that the DoD OIG considers the key findings of the 2013 report accurate. The DoD OIG also considers the recommendations contained in the 2013 report appropriate, even taking into account the issues with documentation of evidence in the project file discussed above.

In addition, in further response to the findings of the internal quality assurance review, in 2018 the DoD OIG conducted a follow up evaluation regarding Military Cemeteries. This evaluation included all elements of the objectives in the 2013 evaluation.

The DoD OIG published results of the new evaluation, "Evaluation of Operations and Management of Military Cemeteries," on May 20, 2019. The findings and conclusions of the 2019 evaluation are consistent with the findings and conclusions of the 2013 report. The 2019 report also includes additional recommendations for program improvement. The 2019 reports are available at <https://www.dodig.mil/Reports/Audits-and-Evaluations/>.

In addition, the DoD Acting Inspector General requested that the CIGIE Inspection and Evaluation Committee initiate a peer review of the three DoD OIG evaluation components to ensure that their policies and practices met CIGIE standards. The external peer review team also examined a total of ten evaluation reports from the OIG's three evaluation components. The CIGIE peer review team assessed the extent to which the evaluation components of the DoD OIG adhered to nine standards described in CIGIE's Blue Book, specifically: Quality Control, Planning, Data Collection and Analysis, Evidence, Records Maintenance, Reporting, Follow-up, Timeliness, and Independence.

The CIGIE peer review results, issued on September 25, 2018, concluded that the DoD OIG Inspection and Evaluation components' policies and procedures generally met the Blue Book standards addressed in the peer review and that the ten reports reviewed for the peer review generally met the applicable Blue Book standards.

Finally, on April 1, 2019, as part of the DoD OIGs focus on continuous improvement, the DoD OIG consolidated its three inspections and evaluations components (Policy and Oversight, Special Plans and Operations, and Intelligence and Special Program Assessments) into one Evaluations component. Establishing a single Evaluations component will better enable the DoD OIG to standardize evaluation policy, project planning, and project execution. The consolidation will also promote consistency, improve training across the Evaluations component, provide the DoD and others a single point of contact for evaluations, consolidate administrative functions for evaluations, and established a single leader for Evaluations within the DoD OIG.



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