



# INSPECTOR GENERAL

*U.S. Department of Defense*

AS OF MAY 12, 2020



# DOD OIG COVID-19 OVERSIGHT PLAN

INTEGRITY ★ INDEPENDENCE ★ EXCELLENCE



# INTRODUCTION

Established in 1982, the Department of Defense Office of Inspector General (DoD OIG) serves as an independent and objective office in the DoD and provides oversight of DoD programs, operations, and activities in accordance with the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended (title 5, United States Code, Appendix), and implemented by DoD Directive 5106.01, "Inspector General of the Department of Defense."

Our mission is to detect and deter fraud, waste, and abuse in DoD programs, operations, and activities; promote the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of the DoD; and help ensure ethical conduct throughout the DoD.

In response to the coronavirus disease–2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, Congress appropriated nearly \$10.6 billion to the DoD to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19, domestically and internationally. In addition, Congress appropriated \$20 million to the DoD OIG for increased oversight of DoD programs, operations, and activities in response to COVID-19.

This DoD OIG COVID-19 Oversight Plan describes planned and ongoing audits, evaluations, and investigations that the DoD OIG intends to conduct of DoD programs, operations, and activities executed in response to COVID-19. The Oversight Plan also contains summaries and links for our completed work, a review of the DoD OIG approach to criminal investigations, and a summary of complaints the DoD Hotline has received related to COVID-19.

The COVID-19 Oversight Plan is not a static document, and we may modify our projects as new challenges and risks emerge for the DoD.

Each month, we will update the COVID-19 Oversight Plan to reflect new work planned and to update DoD Hotline contacts and types of complaints received. Information on new COVID-19 projects and completed COVID-19 oversight work will be posted on our website at [www.dodig.mil](http://www.dodig.mil). Completed DoD OIG COVID-19 projects will also be available at: [www.oversight.gov](http://www.oversight.gov), and [www.pandemic.oversight.gov](http://www.pandemic.oversight.gov).

# COVID-19 FUNDING FOR DOD AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS

Since March 6, 2020, Congress has passed, and the President has signed into law, four bills to provide additional funding to Government entities and economic assistance to Americans in response to the COVID-19. Two of those laws contained funding for the DoD. Public Law 116-127, "Families First Coronavirus Response Act," includes \$82 million for the Defense Health Program. Public Law 116-136, "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act" (CARES Act), appropriates nearly \$10.6 billion in additional funding for the DoD. The CARES Act also establishes a Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery (SIGPR) and the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC) to provide oversight of CARES Act funding.

The DoD OIG COVID-19 Oversight Plan will provide oversight for funding appropriated to the DoD agencies and programs listed below.

## **PERSONNEL**

National Guard Personnel, Army	\$746,591,000
National Guard Personnel, Air Force	\$482,125,000

## **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

Operation and Maintenance, Army	\$160,300,000
Operation and Maintenance, Navy	\$360,308,000
Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps	\$90,000,000
Operation and Maintenance, Air Force	\$155,000,000
Operation and Maintenance, Army Reserve	\$48,000,000
Operation and Maintenance, Army National Guard	\$186,696,000
Operation and Maintenance, Air National Guard	\$75,754,000
Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide	\$827,800,000

<b>DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT PURCHASES</b>	\$1,000,000,000
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<b>DEFENSE WORKING CAPITAL FUNDS</b>	\$1,450,000,000
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<b>DEFENSE HEALTH PROGRAM</b>	\$3,805,600,000
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<b>ARMY CIVIL CORPS OF ENGINEERS OPERATIONS</b>	\$50,000,000
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<b>ARMY CIVIL CORPS OF ENGINEERS EXPENSES</b>	\$20,000,000
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,458,174,000</b>
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In addition to the appropriations for the above DoD agencies and programs, section 13002 of the CARES Act provides nearly \$1.1 billion for contracts entered into under the TRICARE program. This amount is included in the nearly \$10.6 billion in supplemental funding provided to the DoD.

## DOD BEST PRACTICES GUIDANCE ISSUED TO THE DOD

Between October 1, 2010, and March 31, 2020, the DoD OIG conducted 1,549 audits and evaluations. Using the findings from this previous oversight work, the DoD OIG issued the following memorandums to the DoD.

### **COVID-19 Expenditures – Lessons Learned Regarding Awareness of Potential Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Risk**

On April 6, 2020, the DoD OIG issued this memorandum to DoD leaders to share best practices and lessons learned to ensure that the DoD uses CARES Act funds effectively and to remind DoD personnel to be proactive in their efforts to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse activities before they occur.

<https://media.defense.gov/2020/Apr/21/2002285212/-1/-1/1/COVID-19%20EXPENDITURES%20LESSONS%20LEARNED.PDF>

### **Special Report on Protecting Patient Health Information During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

On April 27, 2020, the DoD OIG issued this special report to provide best practices and lessons learned identified in previous DoD OIG audit reports related to protecting patient health information. As medical treatment facilities and alternate care facilities experience increased volumes of patients seeking treatment during the COVID-19 pandemic, DoD health care leaders, medical treatment facility chief information officers, network administrators, and users must protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of protected health information.

<https://media.defense.gov/2020/Apr/27/2002289051/-1/-1/1/DODIG-2020-080.PDF>

## DOD OIG COVID-19 OVERSIGHT WORK

When considering which programs, operations, and activities to initiate, the DoD OIG evaluates the distribution of COVID-19 appropriations across the DoD, then plans and coordinates oversight in such areas as health care, procurement, force readiness, cybersecurity, and information technology.

This list is not conclusive and will grow and evolve as new challenges related to COVID-19 emerge. In addition, the DoD OIG will remain flexible and responsive to developing DoD requirements, to include reevaluating planned or ongoing work to determine whether work should be modified.

The following sections describe the DoD OIG's ongoing and planned projects related to the DoD's response to COVID-19, including work that has been modified to include issues related to COVID-19. We will update these sections monthly to reflect new work that we have planned or initiated.

## ONGOING WORK

### **Evaluation of the Navy's Plans and Response to the COVID-2019 Outbreak Onboard Ships and Submarines**

Announced on May 11, the objective of this evaluation is to determine whether the Navy has implemented policies and procedures to prevent and mitigate the spread of infectious diseases, such as COVID-19, on ships and submarines.

<https://www.dodig.mil/Reports/Project-Announcement-Memos/Article/2183111/project-announcement-evaluation-of-the-navys-plans-and-response-to-the-coronavi/>

### **Audit of Entitlements and Allowances for Mobilized Reserve Service Members**

Announced April 23, 2020, the objective of this audit is to determine whether the DoD Reserve Components mobilization process, to include the process for mobilizing Reserve Component members due to COVID-19, ensures that entitlements and allowances are accurately identified and processed prior to service members' mobilization.

<https://media.defense.gov/2020/May/06/2002295156/-1/-1/1/D2020-D000RG-0116.00.PDF>

### **Audit of Controls Over Costs for Health Care Claims Related to COVID-19 Related Services**

Announced April 23, 2020, the objective of this audit is to determine whether the Defense Health Agency effectively controlled costs for health care claims related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://media.defense.gov/2020/May/05/2002294421/-1/-1/1/D2020-D000AW-0117.000.PDF>

### **Audit of Contracts for Equipment and Supplies in Support of COVID-19**

Announced April 30, 2020, the objective of this audit is to determine whether the DoD paid fair and reasonable prices for equipment and supplies procured in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://media.defense.gov/2020/May/05/2002294421/-1/-1/1/D2020-D000AW-0117.000.PDF>

### **Evaluation of Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Oversight of Contracts for Ventilators and Respirators in Response to the COVID-19 Outbreak**

Announced May 4, 2020, the objective of this evaluation is to determine whether the Defense Logistics Agency conducted effective contract oversight to ensure that ventilators and respirators were delivered in accordance with the timelines and quality requirements in the

contract(s) in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic. For this evaluation, we define effective contract oversight as complying with Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) requirements for contract oversight.

[https://media.defense.gov/2020/May/05/2002294747/-1/-1/1/D2020-DEVOSA-0124.000\\_REDACTED.PDF](https://media.defense.gov/2020/May/05/2002294747/-1/-1/1/D2020-DEVOSA-0124.000_REDACTED.PDF)

### **Special Report: Best Practices and Lessons Learned for DoD Contracting Officials in the Pandemic Environment**

This special report will provide contracting award and oversight best practices and lessons learned from prior disaster reporting.

## **PLANNED WORK**

### **Audit of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Contract Quality Assurance Controls Over the Conversion of Alternate Care Sites for the COVID-19 Response**

The objective of this audit is to determine whether U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials established quality assurance controls for the Alternate Care Sites facilities constructed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Audit of Dual-Status Commanders for Use in Defense Support of Civil Authorities**

The objective of this audit is to determine whether DoD Components complied with the process to nominate, certify, and appoint Dual-Status Commanders in accordance with legal authorities and DoD policies for use in Defense Support of Civil Authorities missions in response to the outbreak of COVID-19.

### **Audit of Screening and Quarantine Procedures at Al Udeid Air Base**

The objective of this audit is to determine whether the Air Force has implemented screening and quarantine procedures for personnel entering Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, in accordance with applicable criteria in the event of an infectious disease outbreak.

### **Audit of Infectious Disease Medical Treatment Capabilities at Al Udeid Air Base**

The objective of this audit is to determine whether Al Udeid Air Base has the capability to treat COVID-19 patients and isolate or quarantine suspected infected service members, civilians, and contractors.

### **Audit of the Impact of Novel Coronavirus on Basic Training**

The objective of this audit is to determine whether the DoD followed guidance and implemented procedures to prevent and reduce the spread of COVID-19 at basic training facilities, while maintaining military readiness.

**Audit of DoD Cybersecurity in the COVID-19 Telework Environment**

The objective of this audit is to determine whether DoD Components maintained network protections as the DoD workforce maximized the use of telework capabilities to ensure the continuity of mission-essential tasks during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Assessment of Access to DoD Information Technology and Communications During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

The objective of this assessment is to determine the extent to which DoD Components provided access to DoD information technology and communications to ensure continuity of operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Audit of Contracts for DoD Information Technology Products and Services Procured by DoD Components in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic**

The objective of this audit is to determine whether DoD Components are using supplemental funds received to support operation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to procure information technology products and services in accordance with DoD and Federal funding requirements.

**Evaluation of U.S. Combatant Command Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic**

The objective of this evaluation is to determine whether U.S. Africa Command, U.S. Central Command, U.S. European Command, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, U.S. Southern Command, and their Component Commands executed pandemic response plans and to identify the challenges encountered in implementing the response plans and the impact to operations resulting from COVID-19.

**Audit of the Disinfection of DoD Facilities in Response to the Coronavirus**

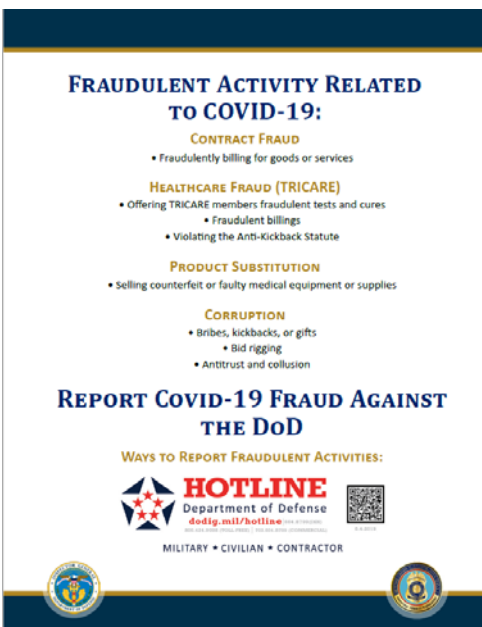
The objective of this audit is to determine whether DoD officials adequately cleaned and disinfected DoD facilities that were occupied by individuals suspected of or confirmed as being positive for COVID-19.



# DOD OIG CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

The Defense Criminal Investigative Service (DCIS), the criminal investigative component of the DoD OIG, has initiated multiple investigative projects nationwide to proactively identify fraud and product substitution in DoD acquisition and health care programs related to the DoD's response to the COVID-19 crisis.

These investigative projects use a variety of tools and techniques to identify fraud, including data mining and analysis. At the same time, DCIS has assigned investigative resources to participate at the national and regional levels in COVID-19 task forces and working groups to identify potential criminal schemes impacting the DoD.



DCIS released a poster to highlight activities that may occur as CARES Act funds are awarded. The poster provides examples of Contract Fraud, Health Care Fraud, Product Substitution, and Corruption, and provides contact information for the DoD Hotline.

The poster is available to download at:

<https://www.dodig.mil/Resources/Posters-and-Brochures/>

DCIS works collaboratively with the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the DoD to detect, deter, and disrupt these schemes while seeking the full range of remedies, including criminal prosecution and, when appropriate, suspension and debarment from Government contracting.

As DCIS investigations lead to criminal prosecutions, in collaboration with the DOJ, we will post press releases under Criminal Investigations on the DoD OIG home page at [www.dodig.mil](http://www.dodig.mil).

# DOD HOTLINE

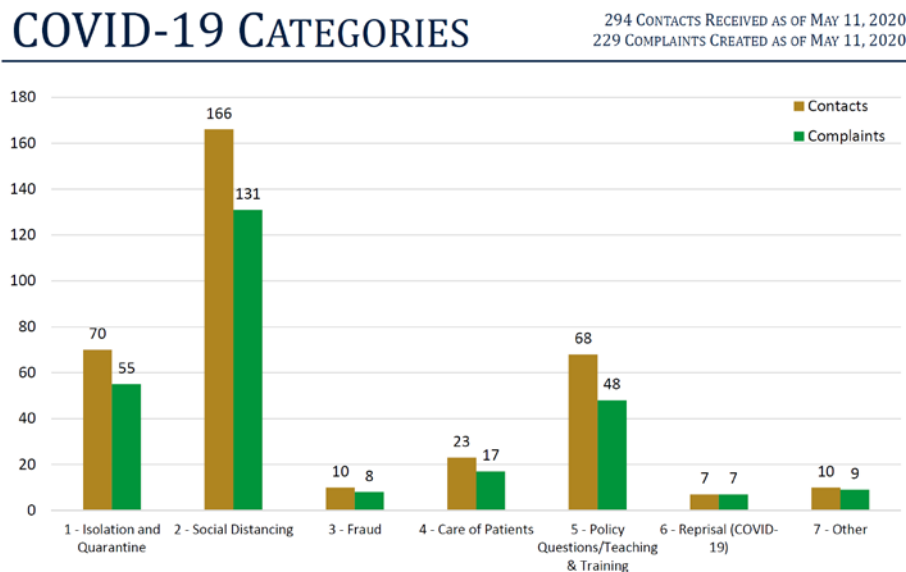
The DoD OIG operates the DoD Hotline to provide a confidential, reliable means to report fraud, waste, abuse, and other violations of law that involve DoD personnel or operations, without fear of reprisal. The DoD Hotline has received an increasing number of contacts related to COVID-19 since the end of February 2020 and is tracking complaints in the following seven categories.

1. Isolation and Quarantine
2. Social Distancing
3. Fraud
4. Care of Patients
5. Policy Questions/Teaching and Training
6. Reprisal
7. Other

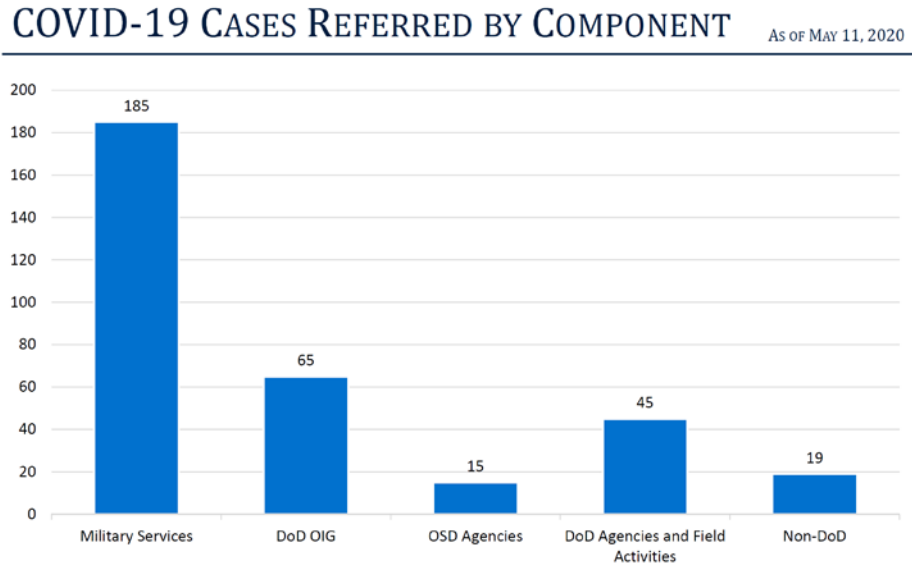
A DoD Hotline contact becomes a case when the Hotline opens and refers the case for action or information to a DoD OIG component, Military Service, DoD agency, DoD field activity, or other agency outside the DoD.

Any action referral requires a Hotline Completion Report, for which the DoD OIG will oversight. The DoD Hotline will not close the complaint until the DoD OIG approves the Hotline Completion Report and determines that the complaint has been adequately addressed.

The following chart identifies the number of contacts received and the number of complaints created related to COVID-19 as of May 11, 2020.



The following chart shows the number of DoD Hotline complaints related to COVID-19 by DoD Component filed as of May 11, 2020.



# **Whistleblower Protection**

## **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

*Whistleblower Protection safeguards DoD employees against retaliation for protected disclosures that expose possible waste, fraud, and abuse in government programs. For more information, please visit the Whistleblower webpage at <http://www.dodig.mil/Components/Administrative-Investigations/Whistleblower-Reprisal-Investigations/Whistleblower-Reprisal/> or contact the Whistleblower Protection Coordinator at [Whistleblowerprotectioncoordinator@dodig.mil](mailto:Whistleblowerprotectioncoordinator@dodig.mil)*

### **For more information about DoD OIG reports or activities, please contact us:**

#### **Congressional Liaison**

703.604.8324

#### **Media Contact**

[public.affairs@dodig.mil](mailto:public.affairs@dodig.mil); 703.604.8324

#### **DoD OIG Mailing Lists**

[www.dodig.mil/Mailing-Lists/](http://www.dodig.mil/Mailing-Lists/)

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