



INSPECTOR GENERAL

U.S. Department of Defense



DOD OIG COVID-19 OVERSIGHT PLAN

2021 Q2 UPDATE

INTEGRITY ★ INDEPENDENCE ★ EXCELLENCE



INTRODUCTION

In March 2020, the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) received more than \$10.5 billion in appropriated FY 2020 funds in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus disease–2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, domestically and internationally.

The DoD OIG coordinates across the DoD, the Federal oversight community, and with the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC) to ensure its oversight related to the COVID-19 pandemic is responsive to the complex environment in which the DoD operates. These efforts are reflected in the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency “Top Management and Performance Challenges Facing Multiple Federal Agencies” and the PRAC’s “UPDATE: Top Challenges in Pandemic Relief and Response,” both released in February 2021. <https://www.pandemicoversight.gov/news/articles/prac-and-cigie-release-reports-top-challenges-federal-agencies>

The DoD OIG encourages individuals to use its DoD Hotline to report concerns or complaints related to the DoD’s pandemic-related supplemental funding. The DoD Hotline provides a confidential, reliable means to report fraud, waste, abuse, and other violations of law that involve DoD personnel or operations, without fear of reprisal. Through March 31, 2021, the DoD Hotline had received 925 complaints related to the DoD response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Social distancing continues to be the most frequently reported issue.

The Defense Criminal Investigative Service (DCIS), the criminal investigative component of the DoD OIG, has initiated investigative projects nationwide to proactively identify fraud in DoD acquisition and health care programs related to the DoD’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic. 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 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, civil remedies, and, when appropriate, suspension and debarment from Government contracting.

The DoD Office of Inspector General (OIG) released its initial COVID-19 Pandemic Oversight Plan in May 2020, and continues to publish regular updates listing DoD OIG pandemic-related projects and published reports.

**DoD OIG COVID-19 PANDEMIC
OVERSIGHT SNAPSHOT
(As of March 31, 2021)**

**DoD Hotline Complaints to Date: 925
Ongoing Oversight Projects: 7
Reports Issued: 22
Best Practices Memorandums Issued: 3**

ONGOING OVERSIGHT PROJECTS

Audit of DoD Implementation of the DoD Coronavirus Disease–2019 Vaccine Distribution Plan

The objective of this audit is to determine whether DoD officials effectively distributed and administered COVID-19 vaccines to the DoD’s workforce in accordance with DoD guidance.

<https://media.defense.gov/2021/Mar/03/2002592442/-1/-1/1/D2021-D000AH-0098.000.PDF>

Audit of the Reliability of the DoD Coronavirus Disease–2019 Patient Health Data

The objective of this audit is to determine the extent to which the DoD can rely on its COVID-19 patient health data to make public health and clinical care decisions.

<https://media.defense.gov/2021/Mar/03/2002592443/-1/-1/1/D2021-D000CT-0096.000.PDF>

Audit of DoD Education Activity Controls Related to the Spread of Coronavirus Disease–2019

The objective of this audit is to determine whether the DoD Education Activity developed and implemented controls in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and DoD guidance related to the spread of COVID-19.

<https://media.defense.gov/2020/Oct/27/2002524206/-1/-1/1/D2021-D000RM-0021.000.PDF>

Audit of the DoD Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act Awards to Increase the Defense Industrial Base Manufacturing Capacity

The objective of this audit is to determine whether the DoD awarded Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act funding to increase the Defense Industrial Base manufacturing capacity in accordance with Federal regulations and Defense Production Act authorities.

<https://media.defense.gov/2020/Oct/15/2002517539/-1/-1/1/D2021-D000AT-0020.000.PDF>

Audit of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Contract Oversight of the Construction 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 constructed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://media.defense.gov/2020/Jun/19/2002318550/-1/-1/1/D2020-D000AV-0144.000.PDF>

Audit of the Department of Defense Mission Assignments for COVID-19 in the U.S. Northern Command Area of Responsibility

The objective of this audit is to determine whether the U.S. Northern Command and DoD Components identified, tracked, requested, and received reimbursement for COVID-19 mission assignments from the Federal Emergency Management Agency in accordance with Federal and DoD policies.

<https://media.defense.gov/2020/Jun/09/2002313150/-1/-1/1/D2020-D000AU-0143.000.PDF>

Audit of Entitlements and Allowances for Mobilized Reserve Service Members

The objective of this audit is to determine whether the DoD Reserve Components mobilization process ensures that entitlements and allowances are accurately identified and processed prior to Service members' deployment.

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

REPORTS ISSUED

Audit of the DoD Military Installations' Public Health Emergency Readiness (DODIG-2021-070)

This audit found that commanders at eight installations reviewed implemented measures to prepare for public health emergencies and respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of the measures that commanders implemented, installation personnel protected lives and sustained mission-critical operations. The full report and recommendations can be found at:

<https://media.defense.gov/2021/Apr/02/2002613240/-1/-1/1/DODIG-2021-070.PDF>

Audit of the Impact of Coronavirus Disease–2019 on Basic Military Training (DODIG-2021-069)

This audit found that despite the challenges of the global pandemic, the DoD and Military Services established procedures to prevent and reduce the spread of COVID 19. However, the audit also determined that the Military Services did not fully implement the procedures at six basic training centers. As a result, the potential for positive COVID 19 cases among recruits and training personnel may increase and could impact the life and safety of military personnel and their families, as well as the DoD's ability to accomplish its mission. The full report and recommendations can be found at:

<https://media.defense.gov/2021/Apr/02/2002613239/-1/-1/1/DODIG-2021-069.PDF>

Evaluation of U.S. Southern Command Response to COVID-19 (DODIG-2021-068)

This report evaluated the U.S. Southern Command's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The report is classified. To file a Freedom of Information Act Request, please visit:

<https://www.dodig.mil/FOIA/Submit-FOIA/>

Evaluation of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command Response to COVID-19 (DODIG-2021-067)

This report evaluated the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The report is classified. To file a Freedom of Information Act Request, please visit:

<https://www.dodig.mil/FOIA/Submit-FOIA/>

Evaluation of U.S. Central Command Response to COVID-19 (DODIG-2021-058)

This report evaluated the U.S. Central Command's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The report is classified. To file a Freedom of Information Act Request, please visit:

<https://www.dodig.mil/FOIA/Submit-FOIA/>

Evaluation of the U.S. European Command's Response to COVID-19 (DODIG-2021-002)

This report evaluated the U.S. European Command's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The report is classified. To file a Freedom of Information Act Request, please visit:

<https://www.dodig.mil/FOIA/Submit-FOIA/>

Evaluation of the U.S. Africa Command’s Response to COVID-19 (DODIG-2020-132)

This report evaluated the U.S. Africa Command’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The report is classified. To file a Freedom of Information Act Request, please visit:

<https://www.dodig.mil/FOIA/Submit-FOIA/>

Evaluation of Access to Department of Defense Information Technology and Communications During the Coronavirus Disease-2019 Pandemic (DODIG-2021-065)

This evaluation found that DoD personnel reported problems accessing DoD Component networks, voice and video teleconference applications, and shortfalls in Government-furnished equipment available to DoD personnel when their Components first transitioned to maximum telework in mid-March 2020. The DoD’s initial challenges occurred because some DoD Components had not fully tested whether their information systems could support Government-wide mandated telework and had not conducted telework exercises with their personnel before March 2020 as required by the DoD Implementation Plan and the DoD Telework Policy. Therefore, some DoD Components were unprepared for the network and communications limitations, as well as equipment and application shortfalls, uncovered by the transition to maximum telework. The full report and recommendations can be found at:

<https://media.defense.gov/2021/Apr/01/2002612366/-1/-1/1/DODIG-2021-065.PDF>

Audit of Maintaining Cybersecurity in the Coronavirus Disease – 2019 Telework Environment (DODIG-2021-064)

This audit found that the DoD Components that were assessed did not consistently implement required cybersecurity controls to protect DoD networks during maximum telework. The full report and recommendations can be found at:

<https://media.defense.gov/2021/Mar/31/2002611501/-1/-1/1/DODIG-2021-064.PDF>

Evaluation of the Armed Forces Retirement Home Response to the Coronavirus Disease-2019 Pandemic (DODIG-2021-055)

This evaluation found that Armed Forces Retirement Home officials generally complied with CDC guidance for protecting residents, staff, and healthcare personnel from COVID-19 exposure.

The full report and recommendations can be found at:

https://media.defense.gov/2021/Feb/18/2002584285/-1/-1/1/DODIG-2021-055_REDACTED.PDF

Audit of Contracts for DoD Information Technology Products and Services Procured by DoD Components in Response to the Coronavirus Disease–2019 Pandemic (DODIG-2021-050)

This audit found that the Army, Navy, Air Force, Defense Health Agency, and Defense Information Systems Agency procured information technology products and services in accordance with the CARES Act and other Federal and DoD requirements. The full report and recommendations can be found at:

<https://media.defense.gov/2021/Feb/17/2002583537/-1/-1/1/DODIG-2021-050.PDF>

Audit of Dual Status Commanders For Use in Defense Support of Civil Authorities Missions In Support of the Coronavirus (DODIG-2021-048)

This audit found that DoD Components managed and coordinated the nomination, certification, and appointment of Dual Status Commanders (DSCs) in support of COVID-19 pandemic relief efforts in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. Specifically, all appointed DSCs met eligibility and qualification requirements, required DSC appointment documents were complete, and DSCs were appointed, on average, within 2 days of receipt of the governor's state and territory appointment memorandums. In addition, the 14 states that did not have appointed DSCs to coordinate COVID-19 pandemic response efforts had eligible and qualified officers assigned to their National Guards that could serve as a DSC in the event one was required. Furthermore, we identified three best practices that state or territory National Guards can apply to improve their responsiveness and ability to employ DSCs to support DSCA missions. Specifically, National Guards from each state or territory should consider maintaining more than one qualified and trained DSC, identifying a primary and successor DSC in state and territory appointment memorandums, and updating the NGB registry of DSCs on a regular basis. The full report and recommendations can be found at:

<https://media.defense.gov/2021/Feb/09/2002578680/-1/-1/1/DODIG-2021-048.PDF>

Evaluation of the Navy's Plans and Response to the Coronavirus Disease-2019 Pandemic Onboard Navy Warships and Submarines (DODIG-2021-049)

This evaluation found that the DoD and the Navy had policies, plans, and procedures to mitigate the spread of pandemic influenza and infectious disease. Additionally, the Navy issued additional policies, plans, and procedures, and collected and disseminated lessons learned to specifically prevent and mitigate, or combat, the COVID-19 pandemic. These lessons learned can assist in updating existing policies. The full report and recommendations can be found at:

https://media.defense.gov/2021/Feb/08/2002577798/-1/-1/1/DODIG-2021-049_REDACTED.PDF

Audit of Contracts for Equipment and Supplies in Support of the Coronavirus Disease-2019 Pandemic (DODIG-2021-045)

This audit determined that the DoD paid fair and reasonable prices on 19 of 23 contracts for the eight items reviewed: four items categorized as laboratory equipment and medical supplies, and four items categorized as personal protective equipment. Laboratory equipment and medical supplies included reagents, viral transport tubes, thermometers, and hand sanitizer. Personal protective equipment included nitrile gloves, gowns, coveralls, and N95 masks. In addition, contracting personnel evaluated price reasonableness and determined that prices for all 23 contracts were fair and reasonable in accordance with DoD and FAR guidance. However, using commercially available and historical pricing, the DoD OIG identified four contracts for which the DoD did not pay fair and reasonable prices. This occurred because the COVID 19 pandemic caused an increase in demand for medical supplies that were not always available for purchase at the time contracting personnel made their determinations. The full report and recommendations can be found at:

<https://media.defense.gov/2021/Jan/21/2002567755/-1/-1/1/DODIG-2021-045.PDF>

Evaluation of Defense Logistics Agency Oversight of Contracts for Ventilators and Respirators in Response to the COVID-19 Outbreak (DODIG-2021-042)

This evaluation determined that the Defense Logistics Agency took proactive measures to acquire ventilators by contacting six vendors already on contract in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Defense Logistics Agency took initiative to acquire ventilators prior to receiving customer requests, due to projected national shortages. As a result, the Defense Logistics Agency's actions reduced delivery delays, which could have resulted from a high demand for ventilators in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. The full report and recommendations can be found at:

https://media.defense.gov/2020/Dec/29/2002558017/-1/-1/1/DODIG-2021-042_REDACTED.PDF

Audit of Infectious Disease Medical Treatment Capabilities at Al Udeid Air Base (DODIG-2021-040)

This audit determined that the 379th Expeditionary Medical Group had the capabilities to treat patients infected with COVID 19 and isolate or quarantine suspected infected Service members, civilians, and contractors. The 379th EMDG developed response plans, established procedures to screen Al Udeid Air Base personnel attempting to enter medical treatment facilities, and initiated COVID 19 testing. Additionally, the 379th Expeditionary Medical Group increased its on hand inventory of personal protective equipment and acquired COVID 19 testing kits to detect infected service members, civilians, and contractors. As a result, the 379th Expeditionary Medical Group was able to quickly identify COVID 19 patients, expedite restriction of movement measures, and conduct contact tracing to prevent the spread of the virus throughout Al Udeid Air Base. The full report and recommendations can be found at:

<https://media.defense.gov/2020/Dec/23/2002556738/-1/-1/1/DODIG-2021-040.PDF>

Audit of the Disinfection of DoD Facilities in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic (DODIG-2021-036)

This audit determined that for the 21 cases at eight DoD installations we reviewed from April 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020, DoD and contractor personnel disinfected areas occupied by individuals who tested positive for COVID 19 in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control guidance. As a result, DoD personnel reduced the risk of exposure to COVID 19 and protected DoD personnel from the spread of COVID 19 in DoD workspaces. The full report and recommendations can be found at:

<https://media.defense.gov/2020/Dec/22/2002556075/-1/-1/1/DODIG-2021-036.PDF>

Audit of DoD Implementation of Section 3610 Authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (DODIG-2021-030)

This audit determined that, in general, DoD contracting officers complied with the Office of Management and Budget and DoD guidance to support rational decisions that were in the best interest of the Government when approving requests related to section 3610 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. Section 3610 of the Act authorized agencies to reimburse contractors for any paid leave, including sick leave, they provide to keep their employees or subcontractor employees in a "ready state." This includes protecting the life and safety of

Government and contractor personnel. However, the DoD faced some challenges implementing section 3610 that extended beyond the audit sample, such as contracting officers having to rely on the contractor's self-certification of the use of other COVID-19 relief measures, tracking and identifying section 3610 in DoD contracts, and the lack of a specific appropriation for section 3610. The full report and recommendations can be found at:

<https://media.defense.gov/2020/Dec/11/2002550337/-1/-1/1/DODIG-2021-030.PDF>

Evaluation of Department of Defense Medical Treatment Facility Challenges During the COVID-19 Pandemic (DODIG-2020-133)

This evaluation summarized the COVID-19-related challenges Medical Treatment Facilities had with personnel, supplies, testing capabilities, information technology, guidance, and lines of authority. The full report and recommendations can be found at:

https://media.defense.gov/2020/Oct/02/2002510008/-1/-1/1/DODIG-2020-133_REDACTED.PDF

Audit of Screening and Quarantine Procedures for Personnel Entering Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar (DODIG-2020-128)

This audit determined that the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing Security and Support Squadrons developed screening and quarantine procedures for personnel entering Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar in accordance with applicable guidance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The squadrons implemented most procedures; however, improvements are needed. Based on our observations, Security and Support Squadron personnel checked the temperature of all personnel entering Al Udeid Air Base and implemented all screening procedures for incoming air terminal passengers. Additionally, in nearly every instance Security Squadron personnel wore required facemasks and gloves. However, when conducting screening at the North Gate, Security Squadron personnel did not consistently check travel passes that were required for base re-entry, or require that personnel wear facemasks if more than one passenger was in the vehicle. If screening procedures are not consistently applied to all personnel entering AUAB, there is a risk that U.S. military, civilian, and contractor personnel may contract and spread COVID-19. If a surge in COVID-19 cases develops, ongoing operations and exercises in Qatar and the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility could be canceled, postponed, or impacted by staffing shortages caused by rapid increases in infected personnel. The full report and recommendations can be found at:

<https://media.defense.gov/2020/Sep/28/2002506514/-1/-1/1/DODIG-2020-128%20REDACTED.PDF>

Special Report: Controls Implemented by the Defense Health Agency to Control Costs for TRICARE COVID-19-Related Services (DODIG-2020-125)

This special report determined that Defense Health Agency (DHA) managed care support contractors planned and took actions to control health care claims payments related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The DHA managed care support contractors also implemented initiatives to identify potential fraud schemes related to COVID-19-related services and maintained open communication lines. These efforts enabled consistent efforts among all stakeholders to ensure TRICARE beneficiaries and providers received the same information on DHA policies and procedures

for health care and claims processing. Through these actions, the DHA reduced the risk of providers exploiting the pandemic for personal gain and potentially prevented improper payments. In addition, these actions provided greater flexibility for providers and beneficiaries, which helped beneficiaries receive the care they needed. The full report and recommendations can be found at:

<https://media.defense.gov/2020/Sep/08/2002492289/-1/-1/1/DODIG-2020-125.PDF>

DoD OIG OUTLOOK

In his Day One Message to the Force, issued on January 22, 2021, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin stated “doing my job also means helping our country get control of the pandemic.” He stated he is focused on ensuring the DoD does “everything we can to vaccinate and care for our workforce and to look for meaningful ways to alleviate the pressure this pandemic has exerted on you and your families.”

On March 26, 2021, the Director of the Defense Health Agency, Lieutenant General Ron Place, announced that the military health system is administering COVID-19 vaccines at 343 sites around the world. At the same time, nearly 3,000 military personnel were deployed to support Federal Emergency Management Administration-led efforts at civilian vaccination sites around the United States.

The DoD OIG continues to coordinate across the DoD, the Federal oversight community, and with the PRAC to conduct relevant and impactful COVID-19 pandemic related oversight projects that are responsive to the complex environment in which the DoD operates. Completed oversight work indicates the DoD is focused on addressing challenges related to the pandemic. The results of our work will assist the DoD in ensuring proper stewardship of pandemic funds and measure the impact of the pandemic on DoD programs and operations.

Whistleblower Protection

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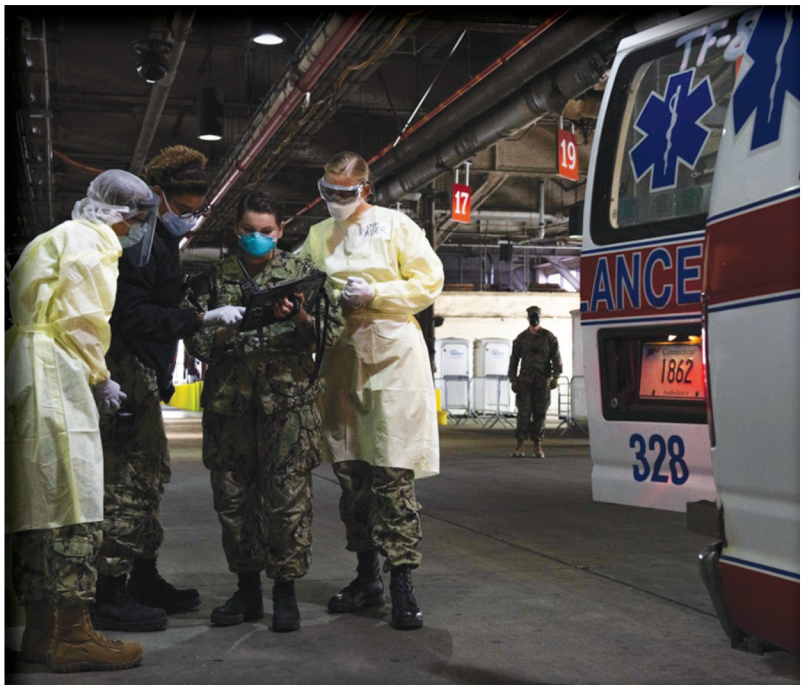
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