



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
INSPECTOR GENERAL
WASHINGTON, DC 20420



External Peer Review Report

September 14, 2021

To: Sean O'Donnell
Acting Inspector General
Department of Defense Office of Inspector General

This required external peer review was conducted in accordance with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) Inspection and Evaluation Committee guidance as contained in the CIGIE Guide for Conducting Peer Reviews of Inspection and Evaluation Organizations of Federal Offices of Inspector General (Blue Book). The peer review was conducted from May 17, 2021 through August 18, 2021.

The CIGIE External Peer Review Team (review team) consisted of experienced Office of Inspector General (OIG) inspection and evaluation professionals from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) OIG.

The VA OIG (reviewing OIG) assessed the extent to which Department of Defense (DoD) OIG (reviewed organization) complied with the seven covered Blue Book standards, specifically: Quality Control; Planning; Data Collections and Analysis; Evidence; Records Maintenance; Reporting; and Followup. This assessment included a review of the DoD OIG's internal policies and procedures implementing the seven covered CIGIE Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation, January 2012. It also included a review of selected inspection and evaluation reports issued between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021 to determine whether the reports complied with the covered Blue Book standards and the DoD OIG's internal policies and procedures.

The VA OIG determined that the DoD OIG's policies and procedures generally were consistent with the seven Blue Book standards addressed in the external peer review. Of the four reports reviewed, all generally complied with the seven covered Blue Book standards.

There are no recommendations associated with this external peer review.

MICHAEL J. MISSAL

Enclosures

ENCLOSURE 1: Scope and Methodology

The VA OIG selected the following four reports for review.

- Evaluation of Department of Defense Compliance With Executive Order 13950, “Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping”
- Evaluation of the Armed Forces Retirement Home Response to the Coronavirus Disease-2019 Pandemic
- Evaluation of Department of Defense Voting Assistance Programs for Calendar Year 2020
- Evaluation of Defense Logistics Agency Contracts for Ventilators in Response to the Coronavirus Disease-2019 Outbreak

DoD OIG provided a list of 80 reports published from April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2021. As there were 40 reports published during the 1-year period prior to the start of the peer review, and their handbook was updated as of September 2020, VA OIG only considered reports that were published between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021. Due to COVID-19 concerns, the VA OIG performed the review virtually.

DoD OIG’s policies require that classified information be reviewed in person at a DoD OIG office. For this reason, VA OIG also eliminated from consideration any report that may have contained portions with classified information. DoD OIG categorized reports in 11 categories, by component and division. VA OIG selected reports for review from four different divisions within DoD OIG. The VA OIG conducted a virtual review from May 17, 2021 through August 18, 2021.

ENCLOSURE 2: DoD OIG's Comments to Peer Review Report



INSPECTOR GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
4800 MARK CENTER DRIVE
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22350-1500

August 31, 2021

The Honorable Michael J. Missal
Inspector General
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Mr. Missal:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the August 25, 2021, draft External Peer Review Report of the Department of Defense Office of Inspector General. We appreciate the peer review team's independent determination that our internal evaluations policies and procedures were generally consistent with, and the four reports reviewed generally complied with, the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation* (Blue Book).

Please convey to the peer review team leader and members our appreciation for their professionalism and dedication in conducting the peer review, especially with the added challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Sean W. O'Donnell", is enclosed in a rectangular box.

Sean W. O'Donnell
Acting Inspector General