



# External Peer Review Report

February 21, 2025

To: Steven A. Stebbins  
*Acting Inspector General*  
*U.S. Department of Defense*

From: Stephen M. Begg   
*Acting Inspector General*  
*U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development*

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, issued in July 2023. The peer review was conducted from September 25, 2024, through February 21, 2025.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Office of Inspector General (OIG), as the Reviewing OIG, assessed the extent to which the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) OIG, the Reviewed OIG, complied with the CIGIE Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation, issued in December 2020 (Blue Book). This assessment included a review of the DoD OIG's internal policies and procedures set forth in the DoD OIG's Evaluations (EVAL) Handbook, issued September 30, 2020, and last updated January 24, 2024, and the DoD OIG's EVAL Business Operations Consolidated Rules, issued September 30, 2020, and last updated February 2, 2024, for implementing the Blue Book standards. It also included a review of selected evaluation reports issued between October 1, 2023, and September 30, 2024, to determine whether the reports complied with the Blue Book standards and the DoD OIG's internal policies and procedures.

The HUD 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. All four of the reports reviewed generally complied with the Blue Book standards.

We do not make any recommendations associated with this external peer review.

## ENCLOSURE 1: Scope and Methodology

The HUD OIG review team selected the following reports for review.

Final report number	Title	Directorate	Final report date
DODIG-2024-016	Evaluation of the Control and Accountability of DoD Biometrics Data Collection Technologies	Program, Combatant Commands and Operations	11/8/2023
DODIG-2024-052	Evaluation of the DoD's Implementation of the NATO* Policy on Preventing and Responding to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	Personnel and Health Affairs	2/5/2024
DODIG-2024-065	Quality Control Review of the Plante & Moran, PLLC** FY*** 2022 Single Audit of the National Center for Manufacturing Sciences and Subsidiary	Space, Intelligence, Engineering, and Oversight	3/21/2024
DODIG-2024-067	External Peer Review of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Internal Review Audit Organization	Space, Intelligence, Engineering, and Oversight	3/22/2024

\*North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

\*\* professional limited liability company (PLLC)

\*\*\* fiscal year (FY)

The DoD OIG provided the review team with a list of all evaluations published during the review period, October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024. The review team compared this list against the evaluations identified on the DoD OIG's website to confirm that the DoD OIG issued 51 evaluation reports during the review period.

In accordance with CIGIE peer review guidelines, the review team considered reports issued during the 1-year period before the start of the peer review. During that timeframe, the DoD OIG issued 51 reports, and 34 of those reports were unclassified or contained controlled unclassified information. Criteria considered for report selection included classification, division, report type, varying subject matter, and distinct project leads.

The review team selected four unclassified or controlled unclassified information reports from three different divisions. Two of the selected reports were full evaluations, one was a quality control review, and one was an external peer review. The DoD OIG's policies require that classified information be

reviewed in person at a DoD OIG office. Further, a security clearance is required for access to classified reports. Accordingly, HUD OIG agreed at the outset of the evaluation that it would not review any report that may have contained classified information.

The review team conducted this evaluation remotely. The DoD OIG provided a laptop to each review team member and all project documentation for each report. During the evaluation, the review team submitted written questions to the DoD OIG, requesting additional information and clarification when necessary, regarding policies and procedures and selected reports. The review team did not identify any constraints on its ability to exercise professional judgment or impairments to its independence during the course of its review.

**ENCLOSURE 2: DoD OIG Comments to Peer Review Report**



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

February 7, 2025

Stephen M. Begg  
Acting Inspector General  
United States Department of Housing and Urban Development  
451 7<sup>th</sup> Street S.W.  
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Acting Inspector General Begg,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the 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 evaluation 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 "Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation" (Blue Book). Accordingly, we have no comments on the draft report.

We appreciate the professionalism of the peer review team and their review, consistent with the shared goal of improving operations across the oversight community.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Mr. Michael Roark, Deputy Inspector General for Evaluations, [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven A. Stebbins".

Steven A. Stebbins  
Acting