



2024

NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL-INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**SEMIANNUAL REPORT  
TO CONGRESS**

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
1 APRIL — 30 SEPTEMBER 2024





FRONT COVER: PHOTO ILLUSTRATION  
NGA WASHINGTON PHOTO: NGA  
BACKGROUND: ADOBE STOCK

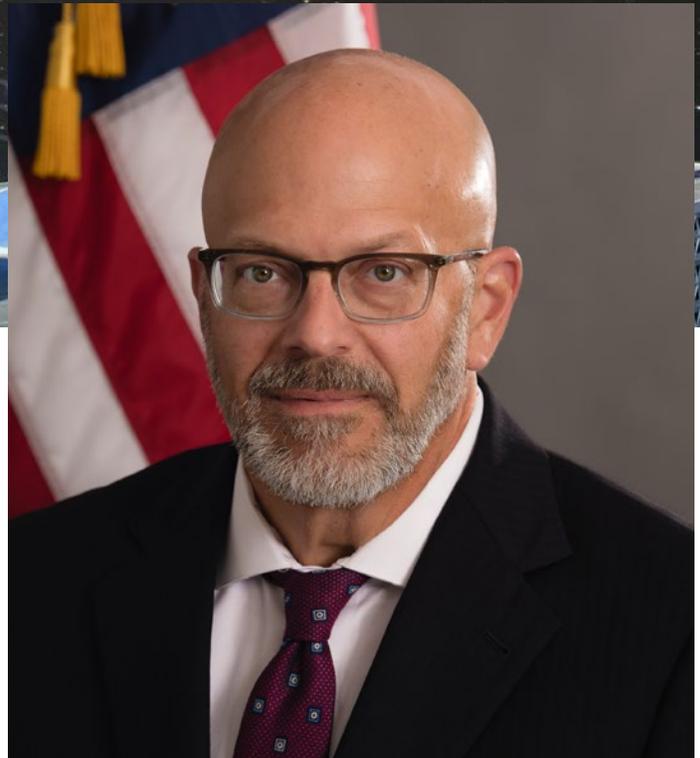
# MESSAGE FROM THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

I am pleased to provide this Semiannual report from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) Office of Inspector General (OIG). In August 2024, I was honored to be selected as the NGA Inspector General and look to continue and build upon the great work done by my predecessors and the hardworking men and women of the OIG. I am committed to providing independent, objective, and impactful work that enables NGA to accomplish its mission effectively and efficiently. As the demand for NGA's services grows to keep pace with the increasing number of significant world events, so must the OIG grow and evolve to keep pace. To that end we are discussing how best to structure our office to most effectively accomplish our oversight mission and responsibilities.

This report covers the period of 1 April through 30 September 2024. During this timeframe, we experienced no attempts by the agency to interfere with our independence as we continued to identify risk and offer recommendations to eliminate fraud, waste, and abuse and improve Agency programs and processes.

We investigated 26 potential violations of law, rules and regulations and published 8 reports of investigation during this period. In August 2024, an NGA employee was indicted for allegedly spending more than \$20,000 in Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funds on personal expenses. This indictment was based on information previously detected and provided by our Data Analytics team to the Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois.

The Audit Division and the Inspection and Evaluation Division published 7 reports detailing our comprehensive reviews of, among other things, NGA's medical clearance process, its compliance with the Payment Integrity Information Act, financial statement audits, the external hiring process, the agency's pay setting process, and the anti-gag provision in NGA nondisclosure



policies and agreements. Additionally, the Audit Division and the Inspection and Evaluation Division continued their work on 10 important projects.

During this reporting period, NGA closed 20 audit and inspection recommendations concerning its medical services, acquisition functions, permanent duty travel, the promotion process, award-fee contracts, the GEOINT standards program, equipment inventory, contractor badging and access, security cameras, the enhanced personnel security program, use of small business contractors, loaned equipment, the joint duty rotation program, removable media devices, and DevCorps operations. We appreciate the Agency's renewed emphasis on addressing our recommendations.

I look forward to continuing our important and independent responsibility to provide oversight for the agency and appreciate the dedicated and hardworking OIG team that makes this possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Boehman'.

Michael P. Boehman  
INSPECTOR GENERAL



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# NGA OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL PROFILE OF PERFORMANCE

1 APRIL – 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

AUDIT, INSPECTION,  
& EVALUATION  
REPORTS ISSUED

7

NEW AUDIT, INSPECTION,  
& EVALUATION  
RECOMMENDATIONS

5

INVESTIGATIVE  
REPORTS  
ISSUED

8

20

15

AUDIT & INSPECTION  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
IMPLEMENTED BY NGA

TOTAL OIG REPORTS  
PUBLISHED

FUNDS  
RECOVERED

\$65,782

137

COMPLAINTS  
RECEIVED



# Strategic Oversight of NGA

NGA's geospatial intelligence (GEOINT) is critical to the ongoing work of keeping our nation safe. NGA has successfully adapted, and will continue to adapt, to shifting global threats and technology advancements to deliver timely, relevant, and accurate GEOINT to policymakers, warfighters, intelligence professionals, and first responders.

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) provides broad oversight of NGA's mission areas by performing independent, objective audits, inspections, evaluations, and investigations to promote effectiveness, efficiency, economy, and integrity throughout NGA. We also investigate fraud, waste, and abuse in NGA programs and operations.

In our report on the Top Management and Performance Challenges Facing NGA, published as part of the FY24 Agency Financial Report on 15 November 2024, we articulated three broad challenge areas:

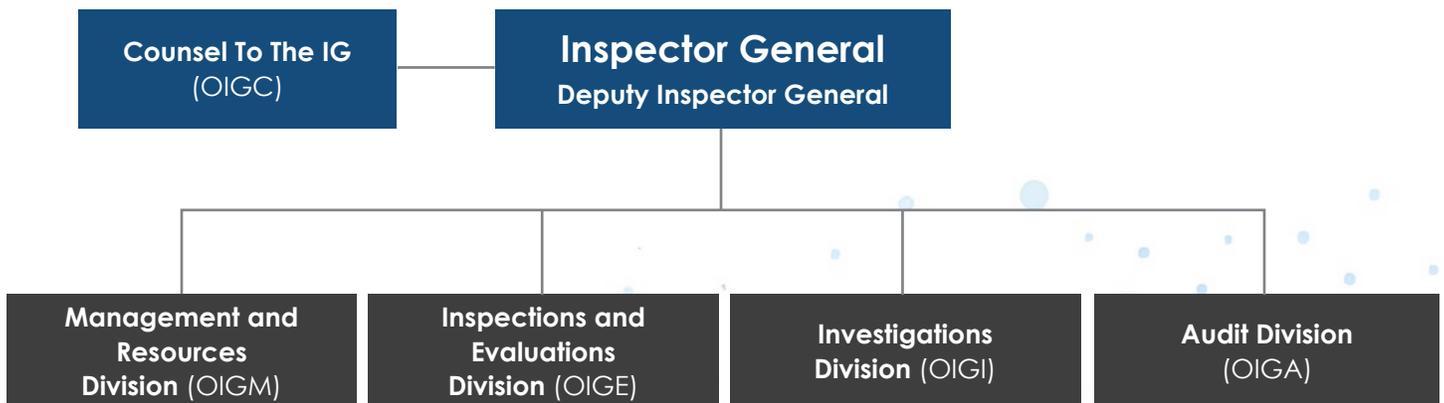
Leading the GEOINT Enterprise in an Evolving Landscape

Strengthening Stewardship of Agency Resources

Cultivating Human Capital

The challenges and opportunities included in these areas are informed by a strategic analysis of findings from previous oversight reporting, Agency progress in each area, and Agency actions to resolve open audit, inspection, and evaluation recommendations. We considered past NGA OIG reporting as well as relevant work from the Department of Defense (DoD) OIG, the Office of the Intelligence Community Inspector General (IC IG), and the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). We also met with NGA's senior leaders to capture and incorporate their insights, knowledge, experiences, and expertise.

## Office of Inspector General



# NGA Office of Inspector General Initiatives

In addition to our oversight activities, we improved internal processes to enhance our effectiveness and mission success. These included purchasing and developing our first corporate management system, and enhancing proactive fraud detection through data analytics. We also enhanced our whistleblower outreach.

## IG Corporate Management System

In FY 2023, we received funding to procure software to meet the requirement for a modernized, digital corporate management system. The system, the Investigations Support Evaluations Audit Management System (iSEAMS), is designed to enhance data accuracy, facilitate the integration of insights from our range of oversight activities, and improve the processes and timeliness of our investigations, audits, inspections, and evaluations.

To ensure iSEAMS was developed to our unique specifications, we reviewed our internal processes and procedures for ways to improve effectiveness and efficiency. With a specific vision in mind, we worked closely with the contractor to configure software to meet the requirements. Our data analytics team created a portal to house iSEAMS, creating the foundation for a one-stop-shop all OIG employees can use for their everyday needs. This user-friendly system will provide each employee with immediate visualizations of significant data. Furthermore, it will enable informed decision-making, provide easy access to pertinent data for reports, enhance internal and external collaboration, and improve strategic planning. This new corporate management system is set to become fully operationally capable in early 2025.



## Proactive Fraud Detection Using Data Analytics

Our proactive fraud detection initiative, conducting electronic sourcing and profiling by analyzing multiple data sources at the same time, continues to be a success. We have five separate data analytics proactive fraud detection models in place to identify fraud involving government purchase cards, government travel cards, contracts, Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act relief, and time and attendance reporting.

Our Data Analytics Team previously identified 18 NGA employees who may have committed fraud related to CARES Act relief using our CARES Act fraud detection model. Acting on that information during this reporting period, the Assistant U.S. Attorney of the Southern District of Illinois indicted and charged one of the identified employees with spending more than \$20,000 in PPP funds on personal expenses.

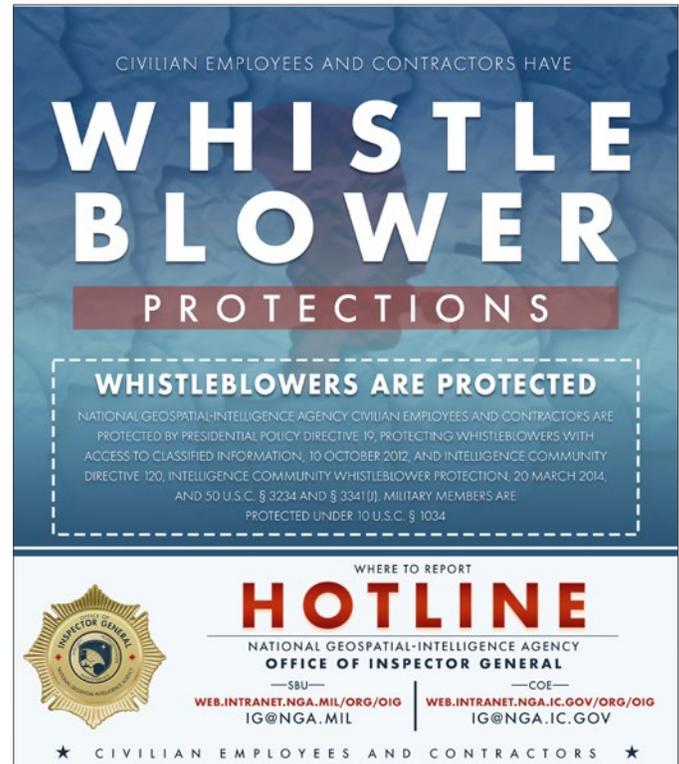
Taking proactive fraud detection one step further, the Data Analytics Team has also automated its proactive fraud detection models with dashboard views that update every 24 hours. These models, which indicate potential violations of law, rule, or regulation, allow OIG employees to easily view trends and evaluate whether more expansive oversight is needed.

In May 2024, the team also demonstrated their automated Government Travel Charge Card proactive fraud analytic model to more than 550 participants at the IC IG Conference. This demonstration led to several collaboration exchanges with other OIGs' data analytics teams and contributed greatly to the overall Inspectors General (IG) community effort to detect fraud before it becomes a larger issue.

## Whistleblower Outreach

We enhanced our whistleblower outreach and education efforts during this reporting period. Leading up to Whistleblower Appreciation Day on 30 July 2024, a joint OIG team conducted a series of activities designed to recognize the courage of whistleblowers and educate NGA employees and contractors on both their duty to report and their protections against reprisal. This included an article for the NGA workforce celebrating Whistleblower Appreciation Day and emphasizing the importance of whistleblowers to the Agency, government, and American public.

In a video accompanying the article, the NGA Deputy Inspector General emphasized that whistleblowers are a vital source of information for detecting and deterring fraud, waste, and abuse in the Agency, and that they should never suffer retaliation or reprisal for their reporting. Finally, to ensure that NGA employees and contractors were fully informed about whistleblower rights and protections, we hosted educational booths at NGA Washington and NGA St. Louis to answer questions, pass out whistleblower information, and share confidential reporting procedures. During this reporting period, the OIG counsel team worked very closely with the Agency to develop and publish updated online training for NGA employees that incorporated all recent amendments to whistleblower laws.



CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES AND CONTRACTORS HAVE

# WHISTLE BLOWER PROTECTIONS

**WHISTLEBLOWERS ARE PROTECTED**

NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL-INTELLIGENCE AGENCY CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES AND CONTRACTORS ARE PROTECTED BY PRESIDENTIAL POLICY DIRECTIVE 19, PROTECTING WHISTLEBLOWERS WITH ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION, 10 OCTOBER 2012, AND INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY DIRECTIVE 120, INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION, 20 MARCH 2014, AND 50 U.S.C. § 3234 AND § 3341 (J). MILITARY MEMBERS ARE PROTECTED UNDER 10 U.S.C. § 1034

WHERE TO REPORT

## HOTLINE

NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL-INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

—SBU— | —COE—  
[WEB.INTRANET.NGA.MIL/ORG/OIG](http://WEB.INTRANET.NGA.MIL/ORG/OIG) | [WEB.INTRANET.NGA.IC.GOV/ORG/OIG](http://WEB.INTRANET.NGA.IC.GOV/ORG/OIG)  
[IG@NGA.MIL](mailto:IG@NGA.MIL) | [IG@NGA.IC.GOV](mailto:IG@NGA.IC.GOV)

★ CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES AND CONTRACTORS ★



# Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations Issued During Reporting Period and Recommendations for Corrective Action

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IG Act § 5(a)(1) and § 5(a)(5)(A)

During this reporting period, we prepared seven reports that outlined potential program deficiencies at NGA, and issued five recommendations to the Agency. Summaries of the reports issued and recommendations for corrective action appear below.

## Management Advisory Report on NGA's Medical Clearance Process, Report No. MAR-24-01, issued 23 April 2024

**Overview.** We conducted this management advisory report (MAR) inquiry to determine whether NGA had consistent corporate policy governing pre-travel medical clearance processes for all types of official travel OCONUS: expeditionary deployment, permanent change of station, and temporary duty. Applying a consistent corporate policy when medically clearing employees before they travel OCONUS can identify specific medical and mental health needs and conditions that may require specialty management, follow-up, or monitoring. Employees traveling OCONUS without the required medical clearance could potentially suffer increased health risks because they are unaware of pre-existing medical conditions, may not receive the immunizations and medications required for their area of travel, or be unwittingly exposed to environmental hazards in the destination area.

**Results.** We found that NGA lacks corporate policy for OCONUS travel setting forth consistent pre-travel medical clearance processes, roles, and responsibilities for Agency medical officials, supervisors, and employees. We assessed that this gap in policy places the Agency at risk of authorizing an NGA employee to travel OCONUS without the medical clearance required by the receiving geographic combatant command (CCMD).

**Recommendations.** We made two recommendations.

- 1 Develop a corporate policy that governs NGA's medical clearance process and includes requirements for employees traveling OCONUS while performing official duties.
- 2 Update NGA Instruction (NGAI) 8920.1, Expeditionary Deployment Program, to assign the appropriate responsibilities to the Directors of NGA's Security and Installations and Human Development (HD) directorates.

## Payment Integrity Information Act Assessment for FY23, Report No. OIGA-U-055-24, issued 29 April 2024

**Overview.** Congress enacted the Payment Integrity Information Act (PIIA) in March 2020. The PIIA requires agencies to review the programs and activities they administer and report the ones that are susceptible to significant improper payments. Each agency's IG determines their agency's PIIA compliance by reviewing improper payment reporting in their agency's annual Agency Financial Report or Performance and Accountability Report and accompanying materials. The objective of our assessment was to determine whether NGA complied with PIIA requirements for FY 2023.

**Results.** We concluded NGA complied with PIIA requirements for FY 2023.

**Recommendations.** Two recommendations remain open from the 31 March 2023 PIIA report. At that time we recommended the NGA Financial Management Directorate (FM) continue to seek written clarification from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) regarding PIIA reporting expectations for NGA, specifically the applicable payment integrity information to be published to meet requirements and how the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) data call guidance should be used. If sufficient clarification is not provided, FM should document its analysis and interpretation of existing PIIA guidance and how NGA will fulfill annual PIIA reporting requirements. FM should also complete standard operating procedures or other process documentation that describes NGA's annual PIIA reporting processes, including the procedures FM will perform to identify the applicable payment integrity information to report in the Agency Financial Report each year.

## 10-Year Financial Statement Audit Story, Report No. OIGA 24-07, issued 15 May 2024

**Overview.** The Intelligence Authorization Act (IAA) for FY 2010 requires NGA to undergo an independent, full-scope financial statement audit (FSA) annually. In accordance with the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990, as amended by the Government Management Reform Act of 1994, the Agency's IG or an independent external auditor determined by the IG is responsible for performing the audit. Each year since FY2014, we provide an opinion on whether NGA's financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. We conducted this review to determine the Agency's evolution and progress during the first 10 years of NGA FSA reporting.

**Results.** The report encapsulates 10 years of FSA results and highlights some areas of progress not overtly described in the FSA reports. We recognize NGA's progress toward its goal of achieving an unmodified opinion by developing and implementing multiyear corrective action plans (MCAPs), establishing accountability through the NGA Audit Committee, and engaging regularly with NGA leadership. We also observed a renewed focus on the FSA across the Agency, and encourage management to maintain this momentum while also dedicating sufficient resources towards audit remediation efforts to achieve and sustain an unmodified opinion upheld by a strong internal control environment.

**Recommendations.** This report does not contain recommendations.

## Review of NGA's Actions to Improve the External Hiring Process, Report No. OIGA 24-08, issued 13 June 2024

**Overview.** In FY 2022, we initiated a review of NGA's external hiring process and identified several inefficiencies. We reported preliminary findings to HD management, but discontinued the review because HD had developed a plan of action in response to the Consolidated Intelligence Guidance for FYs 2024–2028. That guidance required Intelligence Community (IC) agencies to “submit an individual plan for reducing their median, end-to-end hiring timeline to no more than 180 days from the time an application is submitted to the time an individual enters on duty.” HD's plan of action generally addressed the challenges observed in our review and would implement process improvements to reduce the hiring timeline to 200 days by September 2023. During FY 2023, HD management reported that their efforts – which included updating external hiring panel training, streamlining data capture to decrease the documentation needed to make decisions, reorganizing and adding resources its Talent Acquisition Office, and implementing a new applicant tracking system - had significantly reduced the median hiring timeline.

**Results.** Based on our review of HD improvements and metrics data, we calculated that HD's overall median end-to-end hiring timeline (from application to entry on duty) for applicants who applied to NGA positions during FYs 2022 and 2023 decreased from 297 days in FY 2022 to 204 days in FY 2023.

**Recommendations.** This report does not include recommendations.

UNSPLASH

## Evaluation of NGA's Management of the Pay Setting Process, Report No. OIGE-24-03, issued 20 June 2024

**Overview.** Complaints submitted via our Hotline program alerted us to recurring issues in the pay setting process. These complaints alleged HD issued applicants conditional offer letters specifying a total salary, but, upon onboarding, employees discovered their actual pay was lower than specified in the conditional offer. We conducted this evaluation to determine whether NGA's HD was implementing and managing the pay setting process effectively and efficiently, including whether NGA's pay setting process was issuing competitive offers.

**Results.** We found that NGA managed the pay setting process efficiently but HD leadership placed the Agency at risk by not effectively overseeing the pay setting process. We found that HD personnel generally issued job offers within established timelines; however, HD personnel involved in hiring, managing, and implementing the pay setting process lacked knowledge of the pay setting and market compensation assessment methodology. We also identified manual steps in the pay setting process that, due to a lack of oversight, were not always followed, resulting in errors in the job offers. We found that NGA offers of employment made from CY 2021 through CY 2023 had an acceptance rate of approximately 85%; this indicates NGA is issuing attractive and competitive job offers.

**Recommendations.** We made two recommendations to improve and strengthen internal controls over the pay setting process:

- 1 Implement effective controls over the pay setting process to prevent errors in job offers, and
- 2 Implement policies establishing pay setting rules and the market compensation methodology, and align NGA policy for the market compensation assessment methodology with the Defense Civilian Intelligence Personnel System (DCIPS) Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)/Cyber Targeted Local Market Supplement.

## Review of Anti-Gag Provision in NGA Nondisclosure Policies and Agreements, Report No. U-108-24, issued 24 July 2024, and Letter to Sen. Grassley, Report No. U-107-24/OIG, issued 24 July 2024

**Overview.** In March 2024, Sen. Charles Grassley requested that each OIG review all nondisclosure policies, forms, agreements, and related documents specific to their agency to ensure they include the "anti-gag" statement required by the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2012 (WPEA) and 5 U.S.C. § 2302(b)(13)(A).

**Results.** We found NGA personnel did not strictly comply with the WPEA and 5 U.S.C. § 2302(b)(13)(A) requirement to include the "anti-gag" statement in NGA-created nondisclosure policies, forms, and agreements.

**Recommendations.** We recommended the NGA Chief of Staff ensure components include the "anti-gag" statement in all current and future nondisclosure policies, forms, and agreements.

## FY 2024 Evaluation of NGA Pursuant to the Federal Information Security Modernization Act, External Report No. U-118-24/OIG, issued 23 July 2024

**Overview.** The Federal Information Security Modernization Act (FISMA) requires each agency IG to perform an annual, independent evaluation of its agency's information security program and practices and report the results to OMB. We contracted an independent certified public accounting firm to perform the FY 2024 evaluation of NGA's information security program in accordance with FISMA and submitted the results to OMB.

**Results.** The independent certified public accounting firm found that NGA's overall information security program was not effective.

**Recommendations.** The FISMA external report does not contain recommendations. The FISMA internal report, to be completed in October 2024, will contain detailed findings and recommendations.

DVIDS



# Ongoing Audit, Inspections, and Evaluations

We currently have 10 ongoing audits, inspections, and evaluations. Summaries of each are listed below.

## 1. FY 2024 Federal Information Security Modernization Act Evaluation (Mandatory)

FISMA directs federal agencies to report annually to the OMB Director, U.S. Comptroller General, and selected congressional committees on the effectiveness of agency information security policies and procedures. In addition, FISMA requires each agency's IG, or an independent external auditor determined by the IG, to perform an annual independent evaluation of the information security program and practices and to report the results to OMB. The FISMA external report was submitted to OMB as required prior to the 31 July deadline. The evaluation remains ongoing until the final internal report, also conducted by the certified public accounting firm, containing detailed findings and recommendations, is distributed internally to NGA management.

**Objective.** Assess NGA's Information Security Program in accordance with the IG FISMA reporting metrics and determine whether NGA implemented prior year recommendations.

**Status.** We plan to complete the project, announced in November 2023, in October 2024.

## 2. Audit of FY 2024 Financial Statements (Mandatory)

The FY 2010 IAA requires NGA to undergo an independent, full-scope financial statement audit annually. In accordance with the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990, as amended by the Government Management Reform Act of 1994, the Agency's IG or an independent external auditor determined by the IG is responsible for performing the audit. We contracted with an independent certified public accounting firm to perform the FY 2025 financial statement audit. We are overseeing the audit's progress to ensure it is performed in accordance with professional standards, OMB requirements, and the terms of the contract.

**Objective.** Provide an opinion on whether NGA's financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Based on federal financial statement audit requirements, the auditor will also assess NGA's internal control over financial reporting and determine whether NGA complied with applicable provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements.

**Status.** The project, announced in January 2024, will be completed in November 2024.

## 3. Audit of NGA's Implementation of Artificial Intelligence (Mandatory)

The FY 2023 IAA requires each IG with oversight responsibility for an element of the IC to conduct an audit of their agency's efforts "to develop, acquire, adopt, and maintain artificial intelligence [AI] capabilities for the purpose of improving intelligence collection and analysis."

**Objective.** Assess NGA's efforts to develop, acquire, adopt, and maintain AI capabilities for the purpose of improving collection and analysis; whether NGA's efforts are aligned with ODNI policies and principles; the degree to which NGA has implemented the applicable provisions of the IAA; and whether administrative or technical barriers impede NGA's accelerated adoption of AI.

**Status.** The project, announced in June 2023, will be completed in November 2024.

## 4. Audit of NGA's Oversight of the Next NGA West Program

The construction of the Next NGA West (N2W) campus is a considerable investment by the U.S. taxpayer and is essential for the ongoing and ever-evolving mission requirements of NGA. This large-scale construction project is managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and executed by the McCarthy HITT joint venture, with oversight by NGA and the U.S. Air Force. The 97-acre project will deliver a modern, flexible, and collaborative facility in support of NGA's evolving GEOINT mission, offering open and innovative partnering spaces, advanced technology solutions, and a sustainable environment that will serve the Agency's mission and employees for the next 100 years.

**Objective.** Determine whether NGA provided effective oversight over contracts supporting the N2W Program.

**Status.** We expect to complete the project, announced in March 2024, in May 2025.

## 5. Review of IT Vulnerability Tracking and Remediation

Implementation of recommendations from the FISMA evaluation on vulnerability tracking and remediation controls across NGA systems may enhance NGA's cyber security posture. This project goes beyond the FISMA evaluation by testing additional systems to provide greater insight to CIO-T leadership and assist with root cause analysis and support the need for entity-level corrective action. Inadequate vulnerability scanning and remediation practices may lead to a compromise in the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of NGA systems and data.

**Objective.** Determine how effectively non-CIO-T systems are handling the vulnerability scanning, remediation, and POA&M process.

**Status.** We expect to complete the project, announced in May 2024, in January 2025.

## 6. Joint Evaluation with DoD IG of NGA's Integration of Maven

The Deputy Secretary of Defense established Maven in April 2017 to support algorithm-based technology initiatives to develop new methods for bringing AI and machine learning into programs of record, joint functions, and DoD mission areas. Maven's initial mission was fielding technology to augment or automate the processing, exploitation, and dissemination of full-motion video for intelligence support. Maven applies computer vision to independently detect, tag, and track objects or humans of interest from still images or videos captured by surveillance aircraft, satellites, and other means. NGA assumed operational control of Maven's GEOINT services and capabilities in December 2022, and the DoD's Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Office took over the non-GEOINT portion of Maven. On 7 November 2023, Maven became an NGA program of record and was funded in the defense budget. This milestone increased the program's stability and long-term planning. Further, becoming a program of record enabled NGA to apply its GEOINT expertise to improving AI and machine learning algorithms, scenario-based training, and development.

**Objective.** Assess how effectively NGA has integrated Maven into the NGA's GEOINT operations and fielded Maven to support DoD missions.

**Status.** We expect to complete the project, announced in September 2024, in July 2025.

## 7. Evaluation of NGA's Commercial GEOINT Investments, Phase 1: Governance of Commercial GEOINT Analytic Services

NGA released an updated Commercial GEOINT Strategy in 2018 intended to “enable the National System for Geospatial Intelligence (NSG) to better understand the world by leveraging commercial GEOINT capabilities.” The strategy further emphasized embracing new suppliers and services by working with federal and IC partners, CCMDs, and military services to employ the best mix of commercial and national sources, secure strategic competitive advantage, and outpace our adversaries. The 2020 Defense Space Strategy states, “The DoD has an opportunity to leverage innovation and cost-effective investments driven by the private sector.” The NSG Enterprise Commercial GEOINT Strategy 2021 also stated that the NSG “collectively must harness the benefits of working with commercial providers or risk falling behind the accelerating global standard in GEOINT capabilities.”

**Objective.** Evaluate the effectiveness of NGA's policies and processes for identifying, prioritizing, and resourcing commercial GEOINT analytic services.

**Status.** We plan to complete the project, announced in February 2023, in November 2024.

## 8. Evaluation of NGA's Commercial GEOINT Investments, Phase 2: Acquisition and Management of Foundation GEOINT Data.

This evaluation is the second in a series covering NGA commercial GEOINT investments. Acquisition of foundation GEOINT data is a significant component of these investments and essential to achieving NGA's core mission. Over the years, there have been concerns over the quality assurance and quality control processes for foundation GEOINT data obtained through contracts.

**Objective.** Determine whether NGA has implemented effective quality assurance processes in the acquisition and management of foundation GEOINT data.

**Status.** We expect to complete the project, announced in July 2024, in April 2025.

## 9. Evaluation of NGA's Anti-Harassment Program

In FY 2023, members of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence learned of serious allegations that an IC agency mishandled cases of internal harassment between employees. The OIG for that IC agency conducted a special review to examine the issue, prompting the NGA OIG to review its anti-harassment program. We initiated an evaluation to assess NGA's procedures for preventing and responding to reported harassment of its personnel.

**Objective.** Determine whether NGA's Anti-Harassment Program has the resources, policy guidance, and oversight measures in place to effectively serve NGA employees.

**Status.** We plan to complete the project, announced in February 2024, in November 2024.

## 10. Inspection of NGA's Security Financial Disclosure Program

We initiated an evaluation of the Agency's Security Financial Disclosure Program (SFDP) following a report from the NGA Mission Oversight and Compliance Office that SFDP program analysts were infringing on NGA employees' privacy rights and civil liberties.

**Objective.** Evaluate whether the policies and procedures of NGA's Security Financial Disclosure Program comply with federal laws and IC and DoD policies safeguarding the privacy rights and civil liberties of all NGA employees.

**Status.** We plan to complete the project, announced in March 2024, in November 2024.





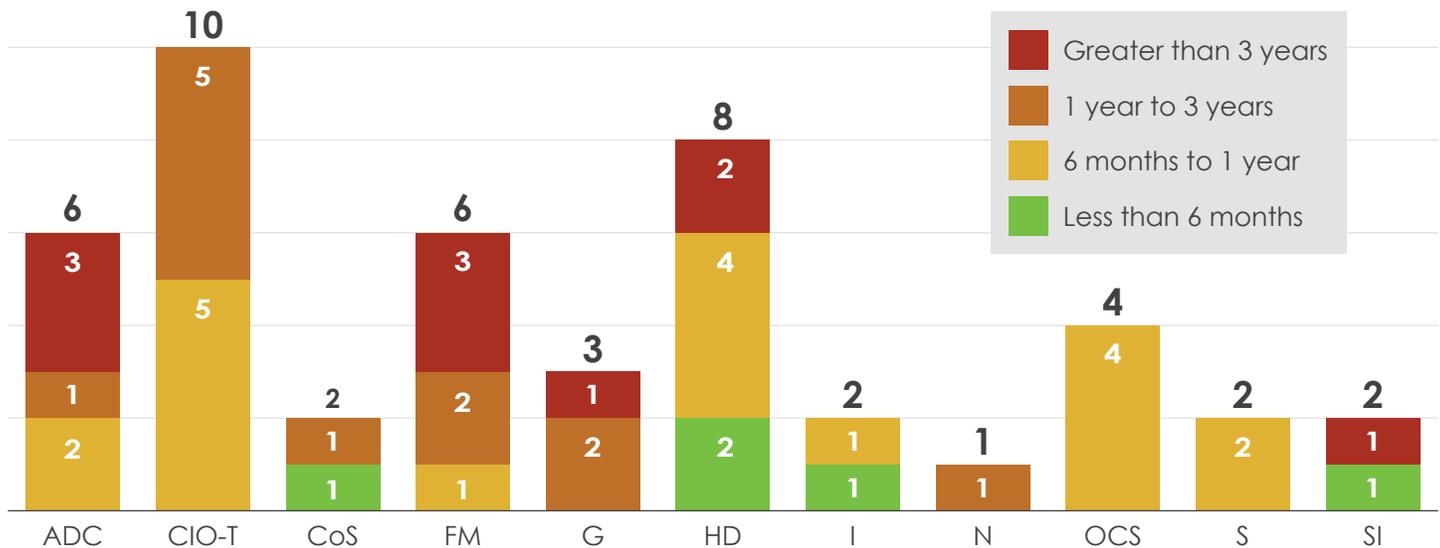
# Open Recommendations Dated Before the Reporting Period

IG Act § 5(a)(2)

As of 30 September 2024, there were 46 total open recommendations, with 41 of those recommendations being made prior to this reporting period. There are no potential cost savings associated with these recommendations, and we did not identify any questioned costs or funds that could be put to better use.

## Status of OIG Audit, Inspection & Evaluation Recommendations

### 46 TOTAL OPEN RECOMMENDATIONS



**Note:** Does not include Financial Statement Audit & Federal Information Security Modernization Act Evaluation

## Inspection of NGA's Medical Services Report No. OIG-18-05 / 23 August 2018

**Rec. No. 3** Consistent with the Economy Act, the Security and Installations Directorate should reassess whether interagency support is available for medical services that would be advantageous to the government. For all such support, (1) ensure documentation in an interservice support agreement (DD Form 1144), and (2) ensure the support is explained in relevant internal standard operating procedures (SOPs).



### **Audit of NGA's Funds Reprogramming Activities** **Report No. OIGA 19-07 / September 2019**

- Rec. No. 1** FM should revise policy to align with congressional oversight and ODNI's definitions.
- Rec. No. 3** FM should complete an analysis of FY 2018 and FY 2019 non-below threshold reprogramming fund movements between components and identify ways to decrease the number of movements to increase the efficiency of operations.
- Rec. No. 4** FM should develop and implement Agency-wide policies that provide clear, actionable guidance on the inclusion of those executing the budget within the budget formulation process and require a standard lookback analysis at the project level to account for reprogramming trends.

### **Inspection Report of NGA's Contract Writing System** **Report No. OIGE-21-05 / 22 April 2021**

- Rec. No. 1** The Office of Contract Services (OCS) should establish a timeline, with specific milestones, to replace NGA's current iteration of the Planning Tool for Resource Integration, Synchronization, and Management with an up-to-date system and designate an office of primary responsibility for each milestone. The office should also develop a plan to coordinate requirements across each NGA directorate involved.

### **Inspection of NGA's Telework Policy** **Report No. OIGE 21-06 / 18 August 2021**

- Rec. No. 1** HD should publish program guidance outlining best practices for components to maximize their use of telework, plan for implementation of mass telework during future pandemics and emergencies, and address long distance (remote) telework.
- Rec. No. 2** HD should update the Agency's telework training for supervisors and employees to ensure identified gaps in the application of telework are addressed and that telework best practices are included.

## Inspection of NGA's GEOINT Standards Program

Report No. OIGE-21-07 / 3 September 2021

- Rec. No. 3** GEOINT Functional Management (GFM) should provide a final version of the annual GEOINT standards report identifying the goals, objectives, and accomplishments of NGA's GEOINT standards elements.
- Rec. No. 5** The Associate Director for Capabilities (ADC) should align the roles, responsibilities, grade, and organizational placement of the senior GEOINT authority for GEOINT standards to make the position commensurate with other NGA senior GEOINT authorities.
- Rec. No. 6** The ADC should develop and implement a process to compel NSG programs to submit self-assessment documentation for acquisitions, as required by NSG Directive 3201, The Geospatial Intelligence (GEOINT) Functional Manager Standards Assessment (GFMSA) Program, Sec. 6(b)(3).

## Audit of NGA's Laptop Inventory

Report No. OIGA 21-10 / 29 September 2021

- Rec. No. 2** The ADC should ensure a single process for laptop acquisition is followed as required by NGA Manual 4160.1, Accountability and Management of Property, Plant, Equipment, and Other Accountable Property.

## Quick Look Inspection Report of NGA's COVID-19 Response: GEOINT Continuity, Recovery, Reconstitution, and Impact

Report No. OIGE 22-03 / 6 July 2022

- Rec. No. 1** Per NGAI 3020.26, Continuity of Operations Program, the Director, NGA GEOINT Operations Center, should establish specific milestones to conduct annual testing, training, and exercises to validate the NGA Continuity of Operations Program, update continuity and component specific plans, and develop tracking mechanism for meeting these requirements.
- Rec. No. 2** As required by NGAI 8940.1, Lessons Learned Program, the Mission Management Group should coordinate, draft, and prioritize Agency level lessons learned, including specific actions, associated offices of primary responsibility, and milestones, and develop enforcement and tracking mechanisms to track progress towards resolution as appropriate.

## Management Advisory Report on NGA Support Team Governance and Support

Report No. MAR 22-01 / 12 August 2022

- Rec. No. 1** The Director, GFM should provide us the result of an NGA Support Team/GEO-Presence review: (a) to evaluate the mission, vision and goals of NGA's external footprint; (b) that assesses whether NGA is providing partners with the right skills, people, and technology to meet current and future GEOINT mission needs; and (c) that determines whether external footprints are rightsized.
- Rec. No. 2** The Director, GFM, in collaboration with Analysis, and other components with externally assigned personnel, should provide us an updated NGA Support Team Concept of Operations.

## Audit of NGA's Software License Management

Report No. OIGA 23-01 / 28 October 2022

- Rec. No. 1** The Director, Software Asset Management (TCS) should conduct an annual inventory of non-capitalized, accountable internal use software licenses.
- Rec. No. 2** The Director, TCS, should establish policy, procedures, and controls to ensure that NGA is not paying for unused or underutilized software licenses.
- Rec. No. 3** The Director, TCS, should assess software license inventories and usage to ensure that NGA is not paying for unused or underutilized software licenses.



## Evaluation of NGA's Zero Trust Architecture

Report No. OIGA 23-06 / 13 January 2023

Rec. No. 2 Recommendation is classified.

Rec. No. 3 Recommendation is classified.

## Assessment of NGA's Compliance with the Payment Integrity Information Act for FY 2022

Report No. U-066-23 / 31 March 2023

**Rec. No. 1** FM should seek written clarification from ODNI regarding the PIIA reporting expectations for NGA, specifically the applicable payment integrity information to be published to meet requirement 1a (i.e., publishing payment integrity information with the annual financial statement) and how the OMB data call guidance should be used. If clarification is not provided, FM should document its analysis and interpretation of existing PIIA guidance and how NGA will fulfill annual PIIA reporting requirements.

**Rec. No. 2** FM should develop SOPs or other process documentation that describe NGA's annual PIIA reporting processes, including the procedures FM will perform to identify the applicable payment integrity information to report in the Agency Financial Report each year.

## Quick Look Inspection of NGA's Use of Small Business Contractors

Report No. OIGE24-01 / 8 November 2023

**Rec. No. 2** OCS should expedite the purchase of either new software or an upgrade to the current contract writing system that directs an alert notification to contracting officials when performance assessment reports are initiated and completed, and for proper tracking and metrics, while also addressing the related recommendation from OIG Inspection Report OIGE-21-05.

## Audit of NGA's Loaned Equipment

Report No. OIGA24-02 / 29 November 2023

**Rec No. 1** The International Operations and Partnerships Directorate (I) should establish and implement a process to maintain and centralize loan agreements for equipment loaned to international partners as required by DoD and NGA policies.

**Rec No. 5** The Source Directorate (S) should develop and implement a POA&M for obtaining signed and current support agreements for equipment loaned to partners.

**Rec No. 6** S should establish and implement a process to verify loans annually as required by NGA policy, maintain and centralize loan agreements and supporting documents, and obtain gravity data from partners as agreed to ensure intended program objectives are achieved.

## Audit of NGA's Joint Duty Rotation Program

Report No. OIGA24-05 / 14 February 2024

- Rec No. 1** HD, in coordination with the NGA Chief of Staff, develop policies and procedures to define roles and responsibilities for key stakeholders involved in the Joint Duty Rotation (JDR) Program.
- Rec No. 3** HD, in coordination with the Chief Information Officer and Information Technology Services Directorate (CIO-T) and FM, perform an analysis to determine whether the JDRs within and outside of Joint Duty Application Tool can be tracked and accounted for in a centralized system that provides real-time updates on the status of employees. Based on the results of the analysis, develop a POA&M to implement the system.
- Rec No. 4** HD, in coordination with FM and the NGA Chief of Staff, develop policies and procedures to ensure funding agreements are in place before the start of JDRs and reimbursements are collected on time. The policy should also establish actions to take when Gaining agencies do not reimburse NGA for employees on JDRs.
- Rec No. 5** FM, in coordination with HD, develop a POA&M to automate the reimbursement process that supports the JDR Program for FM to promptly bill for employee services, eliminate the heavy reliance on manual entries, and account for all reimbursable JDRs.
- Rec No. 6** HD, in coordination with FM, establish policies and procedures to accurately classify NGA employees on JDRs from other types of assignments and to update existing JDR records to reflect the policy.

## Audit of NGA's Removable Media Devices

Report No. OIGA24-06 / 8 March 2024

- Rec No. 1** The Chief Information Officer (CIO) should officially appoint and oversee a Removable Media Control Program Manager to execute the responsibilities outlined in NGAI 8010.3, Removable Media Management and Protection, including: ensuring the accountability of all removable media assets, managing procurement of removable media for NGA, issuing removable media to confirmed data transfer officers after verification of a signed user agreement, and conducting a biannual 100% inventory of all removable media at NGA.
- Rec No. 3** The CIO should manage a single copy of the removable media device whitelist in a central location and implement controls to ensure NGA purchases only whitelisted removable media devices.
- Rec No. 4** Recommendation is classified.
- Rec No. 6** The CIO should review the definitions of removable media in NGAI 8010.3 and related articles in the context of potential unauthorized use of disk burners and update policy and articles if applicable.
- Rec No. 7** Recommendation is classified.

## Inspection of NGA's DevCorp Operations

Report No. OIGE-24-02 / 18 March 2024

- Rec No. 1** The ADC should assess NGA's critical needs, identify gaps in the government software developer and software engineer cadre, and update DevCorps' vision, mission statement, functions, long term goals, and organizational placement to address critical needs and gaps.
- Rec No. 2** The ADC should develop a DevCorps strategy implementation plan.
- Rec No. 3** OCS should review and update quality control procedures where necessary to reinforce contracting officer responsibilities.
- Rec No. 4** OCS, in collaboration with the CIO and in consultation with the General Counsel, should conduct a review of the aqua badge construct, identify risks of inadvertent improper administration of services contracts as personal services, and establish mitigation strategies that ensure proper administration of services contracts that use the aqua badge or similar construct.
- Rec No. 5** OCS should develop or update and implement quality control procedures requiring contracting officers to ensure proper administration of services contracts that use the aqua badge or similar construct.



# Management Decisions Made

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IG Act § 5(a)(6)

During this reporting period, management made 20 decisions with respect to 15 audit, inspection, and evaluation reports issued during a previous reporting period.

## Inspection of NGA's Medical Services

REPORT NO. OIGE-18-05 / 23 AUGUST 2018

**Decision 1:** Management coordinated pre- and post-deployment health activities with Secretaries of the military departments to ensure all DoD Instruction 6490.03, Deployment Health, requirements were met. This action closed Recommendation 4.

**Decision 2:** Management implemented a secure electronic transfer of NGA pre- and post-deployment health activity requirements to the Defense Medical Surveillance System. This action closed Recommendation 5.

**Decision 3:** Management enrolled medical clinics in an accreditation program of a recognized national body and requested assistance from the Defense Health Agency Immunization Healthcare Branch for assistance with vaccine storage and use. This action closed Recommendation 7.

**Decision 4:** Management updated their standard operating procedures (SOP) related to deployment. The SOP addressed the various CCMDs' requirements related to psychological assessment timelines. This action closed Recommendation 8.

## Inspection of NGA's Acquisition Function, Phase III

REPORT NO. OIGE-20-01 / 27 NOVEMBER 2019

**Decision:** Management established program executive officers to provide oversight of acquisition functions and established decision authority for programs. This action closed Recommendation 2.

## Audit of NGA's Permanent Duty Travel (PDT) Program

REPORT NO. OIGA 21-01 / 2 OCTOBER 2020

**Decision 1:** Management updated its SOP to ensure FM personnel verify that permanent duty travel vouchers related to transactions by others include evidence of review and approval by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service. In the absence of such evidence, FM personnel review the underlying supporting documents to determine the propriety of the vouchers and document evidence of the review. This action closed Recommendation 3.

**Decision 2:** Management developed procedures to record permanent duty travel obligations for living quarters allowances when permanent duty travel orders are issued. This action closed Recommendation 4.

## Inspection of the NGA Promotion Process

REPORT NO. OIGE-21-04 / 22 APRIL 2021

**Decision 1:** Management developed a plan to measure and analyze the impact of changes on the promotion process. This action closed Recommendation 1.

**Decision 2:** Management developed meaningful metrics to measure the cost effectiveness and efficiency of the promotion process and coordinated with all Agency directorates participating in the promotion process to collect and provide the metrics for analysis. This action closed Recommendation 2.

## Audit of NGA's Award-Fee Contracts

REPORT NO. OIGA 21-08 / 14 JULY 2021

**Decision:** Management developed and documented procedures to measure the effectiveness of award fees as a tool for improving contractor performance, which included metrics for measuring the effectiveness of award fees, a system for collecting data on the use of award fee contracts, and regular examinations of the effectiveness of award fees in achieving desired program outcomes. Management also implemented a system to collect data on fees earned and paid to contractors, which they analyze and monitor for trends. These actions closed Recommendation 5.

## Inspection of NGA's GEOINT Standards Program

REPORT NO. OIGE-21-07 / 3 SEPTEMBER 2021

**Decision:** Management updated Agency programming guidance for FY 2026-2030, which established GEOINT standards as a priority in Agency programming. This action closed Recommendation 1.

## Audit of NGA's Laptop Inventory

REPORT NO. OIGA 21-10 / 29 SEPTEMBER 2021

**Decision:** Management ensured laptop inventory was performed in accordance with NGA Manual 4160.1. This action closed Recommendation 5.

## Quick Look Inspection Report of Contractor Badging

REPORT NO. OIGE-22-02 / 21 DECEMBER 2021

**Decision:** Management developed a plan to address issues with accountability of IC contractor badges in accordance with IC Standard 704-01, Intelligence Community Badge System, (H)(1). This action closed Recommendation 1.

## Quick Look Inspection Report of NGA's Security Cameras

REPORT NO. OIGE 22-04 / 5 AUGUST 2022

**Decision:** Management conducted an assessment on camera coverage, including blind spots, and developed a plan to address any identified vulnerabilities. This action closed Recommendation 3.

## Inspection of NGA's Enhanced Personnel Security Program

REPORT NO. OIGE-23-02 / 8 FEBRUARY 2023

**Decision:** Management completed a resource study to assess the proper staffing needed by the Continuous Evaluation Unit to provide adequate and timely continuous evaluations of covered individuals. This action closed Recommendation 1.

## Inspection of NGA’s Use of Small Business Contractors

REPORT NO. OIGE-24-01 / 8 NOVEMBER 2023

**Decision:** Management established procedures to hold contracting officials accountable for documenting performance assessment reports in the contract writing system. This action closed Recommendation 1.

## Audit of NGA’s Loaned Equipment

REPORT NO. OIGA 24-02 / 29 NOVEMBER 2023

**Decision:** Management established procedures to implement and coordinate screening of loaned equipment to international partners as required by NGA policy. This action closed Recommendation 8.

## Audit of NGA’s Joint Duty Rotation Program

REPORT NO. OIGA 24-05 / 14 FEBRUARY 2024

**Decision:** Management designated a Joint Duty Program Manager to holistically manage the NGA JDR Program to ensure the required documentation complies with IC, DoD, and NGA policies and procedures. This action closed Recommendation 2.

## Audit of NGA’s Removable Media Devices

REPORT NO. OIGA 24-06 / 8 MARCH 2024

**Decision:** Management released a memo directing data transfer officers to scan all new removable media with current and approved virus detection software prior to use. This action closed Recommendation 2.

## Inspection of NGA’s DevCorps Operations

REPORT NO. OIGE-24-02 / 18 MARCH 2024

**Decision:** Management updated NGA FM Directive 011, Preliminary Review of Potential Antideficiency Act (ADA) Violations, to include the complete description of 31 U.S.C. § 1342. This action closed Recommendation 6.

During this reporting period, the Agency took actions to address open recommendations and the OIG closed 20 of them from audits, inspections, and evaluations issued during previous reporting periods. NGA’s renewed emphasis on taking management actions to address open recommendations has resulted in more than double the number of closed recommendations in FY 2024 than in the previous fiscal year.

## Closed Recommendations by KC

KEY COMPONENT	FY23	FY24
ADO	1	
CIO-T	6	5
D		2
DXC		3
FM	1	5
G	2	
HD		4
MOC	2	
OCS	2	5
SI	2	14
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>38</b>

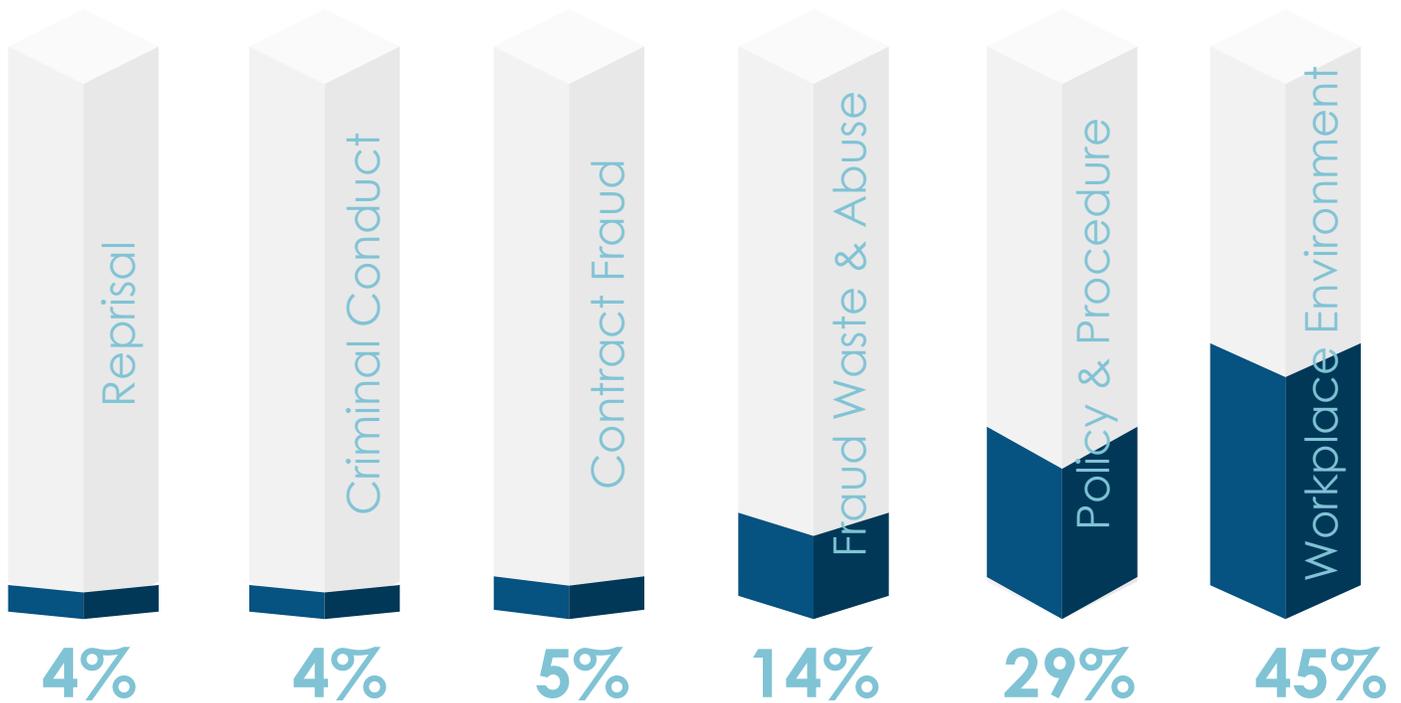
**Note:** Does not include Financial Statement Audit & Federal Information Security Modernization Act Evaluation Recommendations



# Investigations Information, Statistics, and Metrics

We received 137 complaints during this reporting period. The following chart shows the types of complaints received:

Types of OIG Complaints Received  
1 April – 30 September 2024



During this reporting period, we opened 26 investigations, closed 28, and issued 8 investigative reports.

Cases Opened and Closed  
1 April – 30 September 2024

**26**  
INVESTIGATIONS  
OPENED

**28**  
INVESTIGATIONS  
CLOSED

**8**  
INVESTIGATIVE  
REPORTS

# Summary of Significant Investigations Closed

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## IG Act § 5(a)(3)

During the reporting period, we participated in a loan fraud investigation with the Defense Criminal Investigative Service (DCIS). The investigation originated from our analysis of the CARES Act relief proactive fraud detection model and resulted in a grand jury indictment of an NGA employee alleged to have falsely applied for, accepted, and spent more than \$20,000 in PPP funds on personal expenses.

# Total Number of Convictions

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## IG Act § 5(a)(4)

We did not complete any investigations resulting in convictions during the reporting period.

# Statistical Table of Investigation Information

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## IG Act § 5(a)(11)

We did not refer any investigation to the Department of Justice or state or local authorities for prosecution during the reporting period. However, we referred six cases to the DCIS for possible prosecution. DCIS referred four of those six cases to the Assistant U.S. Attorney. All four were declined. There was one indictment resulting from a prior referral.

<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>\$65,782</b>
Investigative Reports Issued	Referrals to the Department of Justice for Criminal Prosecution	Referrals to State and Local Authorities for Criminal Prosecution	Indictments Resulting from Prior Referrals	Cases Referred to Other Investigative Authorities for Possible Criminal Prosecution	Funds Recovered from Contractor Disclosures of Overpayment or Fraud

**Note:** We obtained the data contained in the statistical tables from our case management system (IG Act § 5(a)(12)).

# Substantiated Allegations of Seniors

## IG Act § 5(a)(13)

We closed five investigations involving senior government officials but did not substantiate any of the allegations. We coordinated the completed reports of investigation with the DoD OIG Investigations of Senior Officials Directorate, which concurred with our conclusions.

OPENED AND CLOSED SENIOR CASES 1 APR 24 – 30 SEP 24	
0 OPENED	5 CLOSED

REPRISAL CASES CLOSED SEMIANNUALLY	
1 APR 22 – 30 SEPT 22	4
1 OCT 22 – 30 MAR 23	9
1 APR – 30 SEPT 23	6
1 OCT 23 – 31 MAR 24	4
1 APR 24 – 30 SEP 24	10

# Whistleblower Retaliation

## IG Act § 5(a)(14)

We received five allegations of reprisal during this reporting period. We closed 10 whistleblower retaliation investigations but did not substantiate any of the allegations. We coordinated the complaint analyses and determinations with the DoD OIG Whistleblower Reprisal Investigations Directorate, which concurred with our conclusions.

REPRISAL COMPLAINTS RECEIVED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD	
1 APR 22 – 30 SEPT 22	1
1 OCT 22 – 30 MAR 23	5
1 APR – 30 SEPT 23	9
1 OCT 23 – 31 MAR 24	8
1 APR 24 – 30 SEP 24	3



# Additional Reporting Requirements

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## **Compliance with Federal Financial Management and Improvement Act of 1996**

(IG Act § 5(a)(7))

NGA has developed and implemented remediation plans for financial management systems to address areas of noncompliance.

## **Peer Reviews**

(IG Act § 5(a)(8–10))

### Peer Reviews of NGA OIG:

In March 2024, the National Security Agency (NSA) OIG completed a peer review of our Audit Division. They found that our system of quality control had been suitably designed and complied with to provide us with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards and legal and regulatory requirements in all material respect.

The NSA OIG is currently leading a peer review of our Inspections and Evaluations Division. The team will issue the final report during the next reporting period.

There are no outstanding recommendations from any peer review conducted by another OIG that have not been fully implemented.

### Peer Reviews Conducted by the NGA OIG:

During the reporting period, our Investigations Division led a joint peer review of the system of internal safeguards and management procedures of the IC IG.

The Investigations Division also supported a peer review of the CIA OIG led by the IC IG.

During the reporting period, our Audit Division continued supporting a peer review of the NSA led by the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO).

## **Attempts to Interfere with IG Independence**

(IG Act § 5(a)(15)(A))

We did not experience any attempts to interfere with the office's independence during this reporting period.

## **Information or Assistance Refused**

(IG Act § 5(a)(15)(B))

We were not refused any information or assistance during this reporting period.

## **Public Disclosure (Closed but Undisclosed Audits, Inspections, and Investigations)**

(IG Act § 5(a)(16))

We did not publicly disclose any inspections, evaluations, audits, or investigations during this reporting period. Detailed descriptions of all non-disclosed reports are provided in this report.

## **Investigations of Unauthorized Public Disclosures of Classified Information**

(50 U.S.C. § 3235(b)(1))

There were no instances of unauthorized public disclosures of classified information during this reporting period.





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