

LEAD INSPECTOR GENERAL INFORMATION PAPER

(U) The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013, amended the Inspector General Act of 1978 by adding Section 8L, entitled “Special Provisions Concerning Overseas Contingency Operations.” It states should a military operation exceed sixty days after overseas contingency operation designation, the Chair of the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) shall, within the subsequent 30 days, designate a Lead Inspector General (Lead IG), from among the Inspectors General of the Department of Defense (DoD), Department of State (State), and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). This amendment was subsequently codified in 419, title 5, United States Code (5 USC § 419).

(U) On December 17, 2014, the DoD Inspector General (IG) was designated the first time as Lead IG for Operation INHERENT RESOLVE (OIR). The DoD IG was later designated Lead IG for Operation ENDURING SENTINEL (OES) on November 30, 2021. The DoD was the Lead IG for six other operations (in Asia, Africa and the Middle East) that have sunset. The Lead IG is currently reporting on OIR and OES.

(U) On August 18, 2023, the Department of Defense designated Operation ATLANTIC RESOLVE (OAR) as an overseas contingency operation (OCO). The CIGIE Chair has selected the DoD IG to be the Lead IG for OAR, effective October 18, 2023. “Atlantic Resolve” goes back to 2014 when the U.S. was trying to bolster the NATO alliance in the wake of Russian military actions in Ukraine. Since Russia’s full-scale invasion in February 2022, the mission has gained increased relevance and attention – and the U.S. Congress has appropriated \$113 billion in security, economic, and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine and other countries affected by the war as well as support operations.

(U) As Lead IG, working with State, USAID and other USG IG partners, Honorable Robert Storch, DoD Inspector General, is required to submit quarterly reports on OAR to Congress, the Secretary of Defense and the public. The whole-of-government reports require quarterly data calls and a short suspense vetting process every 90 days, and will cover areas including U.S. assistance to the Government of Ukraine, support operations, diplomatic and humanitarian efforts, anti-corruption efforts, and ongoing oversight. The Lead IG is also required to develop and carry out, in coordination with the two other IGs, a joint strategic plan to conduct comprehensive oversight over all aspects of OAR.

(U) Outreach and whole-of-government coordination continue to be important aspects of the Lead IG’s mission, including continuous interaction with Congress, DoD, the Intelligence Community and other partner agency senior officials and staff in support of oversight and reporting. Since 2017, the Lead IG, IGs and Deputy IGs for DoD, State, and USAID, have traveled together annually (travel curtailed 2022-23 due to COVID) to operational theaters to meet with senior U.S. and Coalition officials (military commanders, ambassadors, USAID mission directors, etc.) and foreign government officials. These trips have included Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Jordan, Bahrain, Turkey, Kenya, Djibouti, as well as various Combatant Command Headquarters. The IGs discuss significant OCO policy, strategy, planning, and operations, and integrate information gained into the quarterly reports and oversight plans.

(U) In January 2023, the IGs and Deputy IGs for DoD, State, and USAID conducted a joint trip to Ukraine, Poland, and Germany in furtherance of their coordinated oversight of the U.S. Government’s Ukraine response efforts. In Ukraine, OIG leaders met with the Ukrainian Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, Minister of Finance, the leadership of the National Anti- Corruption Bureau of Ukraine,

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Ukrainian civil society organizations, and other Ukrainian leaders to discuss efforts to ensure oversight and accountability of U.S. programming to support Ukraine. U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Bridget A. Brink accompanied the OIG delegation for most of these meetings, during which OIG leaders emphasized the importance of receiving timely and transparent access to information from the Government of Ukraine to enhance the OIGs' ability to conduct independent audits and investigations related to U.S.-funded programs and operations. The OIG leaders also underscored the need for independence, transparency, and accountability in Ukrainian institutions, including having adequate systems, staffing, and resources in place to ensure the integrity of government operations. In Germany and Poland, the OIG delegation met with U.S. Army Europe and Africa Command, the Security Assistance Group–Ukraine, and International Donation Coordination Center officials. Through these engagements, OIG leaders gained insights from officials on the ground to inform oversight of U.S. security assistance, direct budget support, energy assistance, and humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

(U) Lead IG travel underscores the commitment to providing current, whole-of-government oversight and reporting on these complex contingency operations. Other Lead IG partners include the Departments of Justice IG, Treasury IG, Homeland Security IG, Dept. of Energy IG, and others. Unclassified Lead IG reports and products are available at: <http://www.dodig.mil/Reports/Lead-Inspector-General-Reports/>.