

Spotlight

Department of Homeland Security



Office of Inspector General

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Why This Matters

The National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD) is primarily responsible for fulfilling the Department of Homeland Security's national, non-law enforcement security missions. Through the Office of Cybersecurity and Communications, a sub-component of NPPD, the Department provides crisis management, incident response, and defense against cyber attacks for the Federal civil executive branch networks (.gov).

DHS Response

NPPD concurred with all of our recommendations and is taking actions to address these recommendations.

Implementation Status of EINSTEIN 3 Accelerated

What We Determined

NPPD has begun to deploy an intrusion prevention system, EINSTEIN 3 Accelerated, to protect Federal networks. For example, NPPD is finalizing contract negotiations with five Internet service providers to deploy intrusion prevention on 87 percent of Federal agency network traffic at full capacity. As of September 2013, NPPD established Memorandums of Agreement with 23 Federal agency participants and brought initial protection services to 4 of them.

NPPD needs to strengthen the monitoring of the EINSTEIN 3 Accelerated program's implementation and improve its ability to handle personally identifiable information as the program matures. Specifically, NPPD must develop implementation measures and a delivery timeline to guide the deployment of intrusion prevention services to its customers on schedule. Further, NPPD must update its training program and standard operating procedure for minimizing personally identifiable information to ensure analysts understand their roles and responsibilities for handling personally identifiable information. Finally, NPPD must address minor security vulnerabilities identified in its classified operational environment to further reduce risk to sensitive information.

What We Recommend

We are making four recommendations to the Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Cybersecurity and Communications to help ensure that the implementation of EINSTEIN 3 Accelerated proceeds as scheduled and personally identifiable information collected and processed by the system is protected.

For Further Information:

Contact our Office of Public Affairs at (202)254-4100, or email us at DHS-OIG.OfficePublicAffairs@oig.dhs.gov