



## OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Department of Homeland Security

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### **Inspector General Completes Investigation of Improper Access and Dissemination of Personal Information Contained Within a Secret Service Database**

The Department of Homeland Security Inspector General has completed its independent investigation into allegations that one or more Secret Service agents improperly accessed internal databases to look up the 2003 employment application of Congressman Jason Chaffetz, Chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The Inspector General has confirmed that between March 24 and April 2, 2015, on approximately 60 different occasions, 45 Secret Service employees accessed Chaffetz' sensitive personal information. The OIG concluded that only 4 of the 45 employees had an arguable legitimate need to access the information.

The Inspector General's report contains the following additional conclusions:

- The Inspector General could not determine exactly how many of the 45 employees disclosed this information to others, but can conclude that the disclosure was widespread.
- Each employee who accessed the Chairman's application and disclosed it to another without an official purpose in doing so violated the Privacy Act, Secret Service policy, and DHS policy.
- The OIG identified 18 supervisors — including the Acting Chief of Staff and the Deputy Director — who knew or should have known that Chairman Chaffetz' personal information was being accessed. Yet, with a single exception, there was no evidence that any of the managers attempted to inform up the chain or to stop or remediate the activity. Director Clancy was unaware of the behavior until shortly before the media published reports of it.

"This episode reflects extremely poor judgment and a lack of care on the part of a number of Secret Service employees," said Inspector General John Roth. "Given the sensitivity of the information with which these agents are entrusted, particularly with regard to their protective function, this episode is deeply disturbing. Secret Service leadership must ensure that behavior like this will not be tolerated."