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**ICE Detainee Air Transportation Program
Could Have Saved \$41.1 Million**

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Air Operations (ICE Air), the program responsible for moving and removing detainees in ICE custody, operated charter flights with empty seats and could have realized cost savings of up to \$41.1 million upon determining optimum flight capacity, according to a recent Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General report, "ICE Air Transportation of Detainees Could Be More Effective" (OIG-15-57). The report includes four recommendations for improvement.

Although ICE Air met its mission by transporting 930,435 detainees over a 3-1/2 year period, it could have used its resources more effectively. ICE Air pays, on average, \$8,419 per flight hour for charter flights regardless of the number of passengers on the plane. In addition, ICE Air does not capture complete and accurate data essential to support operational decisions and ensure program effectiveness. Finally, ICE Air's charter operations did not have sufficient trained personnel and current employees lack the proper guidance to ensure successful daily operations.

"ICE officials must ensure that management and staff use their program's resources effectively. ICE has started taking action to implement our recommendations, which, once implemented, should provide improvements to the program and assurances that taxpayer funds are being spent efficiently," said Inspector General John Roth.

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