



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
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PRESS RELEASE

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“All Hands” Format Cuts OIG Training Costs by 35 Percent

Washington, DC—The Office of Inspector General (OIG), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), recently brought “all hands” together for a mandatory criminal investigator training program that produced a 35 percent reduction in training costs.

The “All Hands” training program, staged in two, one-week sessions in Denver from April 22-26 and from May 7-10, was attended by approximately 261 OIG investigative special agents, administrative officers, technology agents and supervisors drawn from OIG field offices across the U.S. OIG agents are required to undergo periodic training mandated by the U.S. Attorney General and the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency. The training also included courses specific to the OIG’s oversight of DHS.

“This was the largest training program the OIG has ever held,” said Acting Inspector General Charles K. Edwards. “And it came at a crucial time, as we are realigning our investigative priorities and resources to meet new challenges.”

Edwards, who briefed attendees on the OIG’s strategic plan and initiatives, noted that a major effort was made to hold down the cost of the training. “Prudent spending is a key goal at the OIG these days, as it is across the Federal government,” he said. “And, as this office is charged with oversight of DHS, it’s especially important that we set a good fiscal example.”

OIG staff charged with planning the conference conducted a nationwide review of General Services Administration contract airfare and per diem rates and selected Denver as the host city because of its low flight and lodging costs. A number of suitable hotels in Denver were surveyed and they selected the Denver Renaissance Hotel, which agreed to supply rooms at the discounted U.S. Government rate. It also provided meeting rooms, parking, shuttle services, and twice-a-day light refreshment services at no additional cost. The OIG further negotiated a 43 percent reduction in the hotel’s standard rate for audio-visual services and was also able to take advantage of the hotel’s offer of one free room for every 45 rooms booked. Those rooms were utilized to house training instructors.



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In past years, OIG investigators have participated individually in training programs, including those offered by the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, other Federal agencies, and firms under contract to the Government. Planners of the Denver event estimated that the training, if conducted on an individual basis, would have cost the taxpayer-supported OIG \$531,003. Total costs for the “All Hands” event were only \$342,906, resulting in a savings of \$188,097, or 35 percent.

Participants gave the program high marks in a post-training survey. An average of more than 90 percent of respondents “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that the training and instructors were of a high quality and that the material covered was relevant to their jobs.

Based on the success of this initial effort, the OIG now plans to conduct “All Hands”-style training programs for every OIG special agent every two years.

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