March 12, 2018

We evaluated the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) enterprise-wide security program for Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information intelligence systems. Pursuant to the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014, we reviewed the Department’s security program, including its policies, procedures, and system security controls for the enterprise-wide intelligence system.

Since our FY 2016 evaluation, the Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A) has continued to provide effective oversight of the department-wide intelligence system and has implemented programs to monitor ongoing security practices. In addition, the United States Coast Guard is in the process of migrating its intelligence users to a system that is jointly managed by the Defense Intelligence Agency and the National Geospatial Agency.

However, we determined that DHS’ information security program for intelligence systems is not effective, based on the maturity model included in this year’s reporting instructions. Specifically, DHS’ continuous monitoring tools for its intelligence system are not interoperable. DHS has not documented procedures, established formal training, and instituted qualitative and quantitative measures for continuous monitoring of its intelligence systems. Lastly, the United States Secret Service (USSS) has not developed a process to ensure its employees and contractors complete the required annual security awareness training.

We are making three recommendations to I&A and one recommendation to USSS to address identified deficiencies in DHS’ information security program for intelligence systems. I&A concurred with all three recommendations and USSS concurred with its one recommendation. We conducted our fieldwork between May and November 2017.