



DHS OIG HIGHLIGHTS

(U) S&T Has Taken Steps to Address Insider Threats, But Management Challenges Remain

Unclassified Summary

September 28, 2018

The Science and Technology (S&T) Directorate is the primary research arm of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Its mission is to strengthen the Nation's security and resiliency by providing knowledge products and innovative solutions to support DHS mission operations.

Specifically, Congress created S&T in 2003 to conduct basic and applied research, development, demonstration, testing, and evaluation activities relevant to any or all elements of the Department. S&T oversees laboratories where scientists perform mission-critical research on chemical and biological threats, radiological and nuclear detection, animal diseases, transportation security, and explosives trace identification.

S&T employees, contractors, and business partners—especially those with special or elevated privileges—can potentially use their inside knowledge and access to exploit vulnerabilities and cause harm to mission-critical systems and operations.

Between January 2017 and June 2017, we conducted a review of S&T's insider threat program. Our objective was to determine the effectiveness of steps S&T has taken to protect information technology assets and data from potential unauthorized access, disclosure, or misuse by trusted insiders. Our report contains nine recommendations that, if implemented, should strengthen S&T's management of insider threat risks. The Department concurred with all of the recommendations.

For Further Information:

Contact our Office of Public Affairs at (202) 981-6000 or email us at DHS-OIG.OfficePublicAffairs@oig.dhs.gov.