



## OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Department of Homeland Security

Washington, DC 20528 / [www.oig.dhs.gov](http://www.oig.dhs.gov)

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### **Inspector General Completes Investigation of Events at White House Involving Suspicious Package Investigation on March 4, 2015**

The Department of Homeland Security Inspector General has completed its investigation regarding events that occurred at the White House Complex on the evening of March 4<sup>th</sup> of this year. On that evening, two senior Secret Service supervisors—Marc Connolly and George Ogilvie—disrupted the scene of an investigation of a suspicious package during an elevated security condition at the White House. It was alleged that the two agents were under the influence of alcohol after attending a colleague’s retirement celebration earlier that evening.

DHS OIG investigators interviewed almost 50 witnesses and reviewed videos, radio transmission, emails, and documents in reaching the following conclusions:

- Connolly and Ogilvie displayed poor judgment and a lack of situational awareness in driving into the scene. It was more likely than not that the two agents’ judgment was impaired by alcohol. While during their interviews each denied drinking to excess that evening, we must assess those denials in light of the Uniformed Division officers’ observations of the agents’ behavior, the fact that they had just spent the last five hours in a restaurant/bar, and that two highly experienced Secret Service supervisors drove into a crime scene inches from what the rest of the Secret Service was treating as a potential explosive device and which, under different circumstances, could have endangered their own lives and those of the Uniformed Division officers responding.
- Moreover, both agents were required to report their conduct up the chain of command, but did not. Each told us that they did not believe what they did amounted to a reportable incident. Their failure to report reflects either poor judgment or an affirmative desire to hide their activities.
- With regard to the actions of the Uniformed Division that evening, we found that they reacted to the suspicious package generally in accordance with Secret Service policy and operational procedures.



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However, the establishment of the perimeter should have been better executed. While there is often confusion inherent in a fast-moving and factually fluid situation, a number of vehicles and pedestrians came within close proximity to the object after the Uniformed Division had established the safety perimeter.

“We very much appreciated the cooperation of Secret Service Director Clancy and the Secret Service Office of Professional Responsibility as we conducted this independent inquiry,” said Inspector General John Roth. “In keeping with DHS’ regular process, our report and conclusions will now be turned over to the Secret Service to take whatever action they determine is appropriate.”

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