

Hello. My name is Michael Horowitz, and I am the Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Justice.

In today's podcast, I will be discussing the Office of the Inspector General's, or OIG's, recent release of its latest Semiannual Report to Congress. In our Semiannual Report, we summarize the OIG's work over the six month period that ended on March 31st.

During this time, the OIG completed several important reviews and audits. For example, we issued a report that found systemic issues with DOJ law enforcement components' handling of employee sexual harassment and misconduct allegations; we examined the FBI's use of national security authority under Section 215 of the Patriot Act; and we continued our assessment of the Department's use of unmanned aircraft systems, or drones.

The OIG's Investigations Division also completed over 150 investigations of allegations of misconduct involving Department employees, contractors, or grantees. The Investigations Division's work over this six-month period resulted in 40 convictions and 115 administrative actions, including employee terminations, disciplinary actions, and resignations. Among the Investigations Division cases during this period were corruption and fraud cases involving agents from the FBI, the DEA, the U.S. Marshals Service, the U.S. Secret Service, as well as Bureau of Prisons corrections officers.

The Semiannual Report highlights the OIG's ongoing work as well. Examples of the OIG's ongoing work include reviews of the Department's implementations of the recommendations the O-I-G made in its 2012 report on Operation Fast and Furious; the Drug Enforcement Administration's management of its Confidential Source Program; how the federal Bureau of Prisons monitors its private contract prisons, and how those facilities compare with similar BOP institutions in terms of things like safety and security.

In addition, this is the second consecutive Semiannual Report in which the OIG describes its disagreement with a significant management decision by the Department affecting the OIG's ability to get complete and timely access to documents that we have requested in connection with our reviews. As we describe in the report, the Department's decision impacts our ability to complete our reviews, and impairs our independence.

In fact, since the release of our Semiannual Report, we have also released a report on the impact of a provision of the Fiscal Year 2015 appropriations bill that prohibits the Department from using any funds to deny the OIG timely access to Department records and information. In this report, about a provision called Section 218, we noted that Section 218 has had a positive impact on our ability to get timely access to records from Department components, with the exception of the FBI, which continues to maintain the position it first announced in 2010 that

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the OIG is not entitled to review certain records. Those records include grand jury, Title III electronic surveillance, and Fair Credit Reporting Act information.

We remain committed to conducting effective and rigorous oversight of DOJ programs, personnel, and operations – and we believe doing so requires the OIG to have access to all DOJ records, as Congress itself provided for in the Inspector General Act.

Our Semiannual Report includes detailed information on these topics and many others. For example, we discuss the OIG’s continued commitment to ensure that whistleblowers are informed regarding their rights and protections, and that their valuable contributions are not used as a basis for retaliation or reprisal. From October 2014 to March 2015, the OIG received 211 employee whistleblower complaints, and over the last few months, we’ve encrypted the OIG’s website to enhance the security of whistleblowers’ communications with our office.

The OIG’s latest Semiannual Report is now available in full under the “Reports” section of our website, [oig.justice.gov](http://oig.justice.gov). There you can also find all of our previous reports as well as descriptions of our ongoing reviews.

Thank you for your interest in the OIG’s work. Consistent with our mission, we will continue our efforts to help make the DOJ’s operations more effective and efficient.