



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

U.S. Department of Justice

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INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

Findings Concerning the DEA's Use of Amtrak Employees as Paid Confidential Sources

The Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) initiated this investigation upon the receipt of information from the Amtrak Office of Inspector General alleging that an Amtrak employee was acting as a paid Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Confidential Source (CS), providing Amtrak information to the DEA. The Amtrak Police Department (APD) and the DEA participate in a joint task force that works to interdict passengers trafficking contraband on Amtrak trains. Accordingly, Amtrak information is available to DEA at no cost from APD.

The OIG determined that over a period of twenty years, the DEA paid the Amtrak employee \$854,460 as of January 2014 for information that was available at no cost to the government in violation of federal regulations relating to the use of government property, thereby wasting substantial government funds. The OIG also concluded that the DEA agents exceeded the terms of the Amtrak employee's CS classification when they directed him to gather specific information for them. In addition, the OIG learned that an APD officer assigned to a different DEA task force registered another Amtrak employee as a DEA CS and that the DEA paid \$9,701 to the CS in exchange for Amtrak information. The DEA documents submitted to register the Amtrak employees in the CS program did not contain information to inform approving personnel that DEA would be paying the Amtrak employees for information it could have obtained from Amtrak at no cost.

The OIG provided its report to the DEA for appropriate action. The OIG also issued an audit report of the DEA's CS program in July 2015, <https://oig.justice.gov/reports/2015/a1528.pdf>, and is conducting additional audit work relating to the program.

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