

Video Transcript: “A Message from the Inspector General: Audit of the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Management of Maritime Terrorism Threats,” March 2019

Hello, I’m Michael Horowitz, Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Justice.

Today, we released a report examining the FBI’s efforts to help ensure the security of our nation’s seaports. The FBI is one of the key agencies in helping to ensure maritime security because of its responsibility for investigating terrorist activities. Our report identified significant deficiencies with how the FBI assesses the maritime terrorism threat and how it coordinates with the maritime security stakeholders, such as the Coast Guard and the TSA.

For example, one of the FBI’s roles is to provide information to the TSA for consideration in making decisions about who should have unescorted access to secure port facilities and maritime vessels. Based on our audit, we believe that FBI personnel may have made recommendations to the TSA regarding these decisions without an adequate understanding of the access that would be granted and the potential risks involved.

To read all of our findings, and to see our nine recommendations to strengthen the FBI’s maritime counterterrorism efforts, please visit our website, oig.justice.gov, or go to oversight.gov. Thank you for joining us.

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