

## **Transcript: "A Message from the Inspector General: Review of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Response to Unresolved Results Polygraph Examinations" March, 2018**

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

Today, our office released a classified report assessing the FBI's handling of polygraph results in applicant and employee examinations. Specifically, our review focused on how the FBI resolved polygraph examinations following a finding of alleged deception or use of countermeasures by the applicant or employee.

Regarding employee examinations, we determined that the period of time to investigate and adjudicate such results was often lengthy, taking an average of 357 days, with one investigation lasting over 900 days.

The length of this process led to security and operational vulnerabilities because we identified instances in which employees who were unable to pass polygraph exams were allowed to retain access to sensitive information, systems, and spaces for extended periods of time without conducting the risk assessments that FBI policy requires - potentially posing a security risk to the FBI.

Additionally, we found that communication between relevant FBI offices was sometimes lacking, and personnel investigations did not always use all available sources of information. In particular, we found that information about alleged employee misconduct discovered in polygraph examinations wasn't always shared with the FBI's Inspection Division, which is responsible for investigating employee misconduct. Because of the seriousness and urgency of these concerns, we issued a Management Advisory Memorandum to the FBI in September, 2017.

It's essential that the FBI address, promptly and completely, the vulnerabilities and other issues we identified. To address the risk areas, our classified report made 8 recommendations to the FBI, and the FBI agreed with all of them.

To read the unclassified executive summary of today's report, please visit our website, [oig.justice.gov](http://oig.justice.gov). Thank you for joining us.