

Video Script: "Audit of the Drug Enforcement Administration's Income-Generating, Undercover Operations," June 2020

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

Today my office released a report that examined the Drug Enforcement Administration, or DEA's, management and oversight of its Income-Generating Undercover Operations.

Our audit identified significant deficiencies. For example, we found that the DEA did not inform the Attorney General and Congress of all undercover illegal activities it was required by statute to report. Additionally, we found that the DEA's policies and practices were not consistent with certain Department requirements.

We also found that the DEA did not always limit its undercover money laundering activities to those necessary to disrupt the initial targets of the operation. Further, broad initial objectives for some operations made it difficult for DEA and DOJ to oversee the true scope of activities.

According to the DEA, these undercover operations result in some of the most successful criminal cases and seizures. However, the risks associated with undercover money laundering are significant, and therefore compliance with Department policies and statutory requirements are critical. We found that the DEA and DOJ need to improve their oversight and management of these operations, and during the course of our audit, the DEA made certain improvements to its policies and practices.

Our report makes 19 recommendations to the DEA and the DOJ to further improve this important program.

To read the report and all of our findings, visit our website, oig.justice.gov, or go to oversight.gov.

Thank you for joining me today.

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