

Threats to the Inspector General of the GSA

General Services Administration's Proposals

Administrators and the General Service Administration (GSA) announced unprecedented plans to limit the scope and effectiveness of the GSA Office of Inspector General (OIG). GSA plans to:

1. Privatize the OIG's responsibilities for contractor pre-audits – the process used to prevent overcharging for procured goods and services
2. Cut the OIG's proposed budget request by 18 percent (\$10.2 million)

Problems with GSA Plans

- GSA has not analyzed the potential costs and benefits of outsourcing pre-audits
- GSA has not explained the risks entailed in outsourcing contract auditing
- GSA has not provided a rationale for reducing the OIG's budget request
- Manipulating the budget request may endanger the independence of the OIG

GSA Inspector General's Accomplishments

Saving Money

Through the pre-audit process, the GSA OIG has saved \$1.1 billion over the last two years at a cost of only \$4.5 million.

Uncovering Illegal Activities and Wasteful Spending

The GSA OIG has uncovered multiple instances of illegal, negligent, and wasteful activities in the agency's contracting procedures including:

- Numerous contracts outside the legal jurisdiction of the GSA, one of which was a technology contract used to hire interrogators associated with the Abu Ghraib scandal.
- Relationship between David Safavian and the convicted lobbyist Jack Abramoff. The OIG investigation eventually led to Safavian's conviction for concealing unethical dealings with Abramoff.
- Willful and routine ignorance of federal procurement laws and regulations within the Federal Technology Service and the Federal Supply Service as well as numerous sole-source contracts to favored companies.

GSA by the Numbers

3rd largest federal government contracting agency

\$86.3 billion contracted from 2000 to 2005

260% increase in no-competition contracts from 2000 to 2005

\$2.2 billion (17% of contract dollars) competition level is unknown in 2005

55% of GSA contract dollars are allocated through full and open competition in 2005, a drop from 76% percent in 2000