

APPENDIX D

MAJOR PROGRAM EVALUATIONS COMPLETED DURING FY 2005

GOAL I: PREVENT TERRORISM AND PROMOTE THE NATION'S SECURITY

No major evaluations were completed for Strategic Goal I in FY 2005.

GOAL II: ENFORCE FEDERAL LAWS AND REPRESENT THE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Government Accountability Office Study of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Program

On October 5, 1990, Congress passed the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA). The Act offers an apology and monetary compensation to individuals who contracted certain cancers and other serious diseases as a result of their exposure to radiation released during above-ground atmospheric nuclear weapons tests and as a result of their occupational exposure while employed in underground uranium mines during the build-up to the Cold War. The Department's RECA program administered by the Civil Division. On July 10, 2000, Amendments to RECA were enacted that markedly expanded the scope of the Program. The 2000 Amendments included a mandate that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) report to Congress on DOJ's administration of the Program every 18 months. On September 28, 2005, GAO issued a report on the status of the RECA Program. The GAO found that since their last report to Congress in 2003, the RECA Trust Fund is fully funded for the life of the Program; and as of June 19, 2005, claims processing times have improved and the number of pending claims has decreased by 32 percent.

Federal Bureau of Investigation's Organized Crime (Transnational Criminal Enterprise) Program

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI), Organized Crime Program (OCP), now known under its new name as the Transnational Criminal Enterprise Program (TCEP), is managed from the Criminal Investigative Division (CID) at FBI Headquarters. Its mission is to reduce the threat to society posed by continuing conspiracies of individuals with a firm organizational structure who are engaged in a variety of activities that violate federal law. From October 2004 through January 2005, the Organizational Program Evaluation and Analysis Unit (OPEAU) conducted a program evaluation of TCEP to assess program effectiveness in meeting goals and intent. The OPEAU found that the program's purpose was clear and unambiguous, that its central investigative approach of the Enterprise Theory of Investigation is extremely effective, and that it is not redundant or duplicative of the investigative efforts of other agencies. The recent implementation of a regional program management strategy was found to be an improvement over past practice; however, CID needs to continue to reexamine this strategy to more clearly define the roles of the recently created regional program managers and the existing substantive program managers. Overall, TCEP investigators were found to be no less productive since the events of September 11, 2001, despite the diversion of resources towards Counterterrorism and Counterintelligence programs. This evaluation was conducted to meet the requirements of a recommendation resulting from the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) process.

FBI's Financial Crimes Program

The FBI's Financial Crimes Program (FCP) represents the majority of investigative areas under the FBI's White-Collar Crime (WCC) program. Its purpose is to investigate, reduce, and prevent the major and significant frauds targeted against individuals, businesses, and industries, and to protect the nation's financial markets. From February to May 2005, OPEAU conducted a program evaluation of FCP to assess program effectiveness in meeting goals and intent. The major programs that OPEAU focused on were investigations of Mortgage Fraud, Health Care Fraud, and Corporate Fraud. The OPEAU found that the FCP's priorities were designed to best address the most relevant WCC problem areas. Effective and beneficial investigative partnerships with outside agencies were identified with state, local, federal, and international partners, as well as with the private sector. The OPEAU noted that consistency should be improved in the manner in which

information is shared with the Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Inspector General. Changes in classification of certain financial crimes by the FBI were found to improve management of these programs, although further improvements were suggested. The OPEAU also suggested changes in the manner that the program manages Financial Analyst resources. This evaluation was conducted to meet the requirements of a recommendation resulting from the OMB PART process.

FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services Program

The FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division has the mission of reducing criminal and terrorist activity by providing timely and accurate identification services to criminal investigators at the federal, state, and local levels, as well as to international partners. Additionally, CJIS provides information services for civil purposes, such as employment and licensing. From June through September 2004, the OPEAU conducted a program evaluation of CJIS to assess program effectiveness in meeting goals and intent. The specific programs evaluated were the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), and the National Fingerprint Identification Program, which includes the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS). The OPEAU found that the fingerprint identification services provided by CJIS serve as the nucleus of today's fingerprint identification program in the United States, providing an efficiently automated and nationally integrated fingerprint identification system. The OPEAU found that CJIS recognizes that fingerprint identification is an increasingly critical component of preventing terrorism and is taking the steps necessary to provide all agencies with a counterterrorism mission the same efficiencies and coordination that has served public safety and law enforcement agencies so well. However, OPEAU also found that ultimate success in the counterterrorism area will depend on the deliberate efforts of terrorism prevention agencies to engage with the existing program at CJIS and its further development instead of creating fragmented and incompatible fingerprint identification systems independent of each other and with a diluted connection to the public safety and law enforcement first responders already served by CJIS. The NCIC was noted for providing valuable law enforcement service in a timely and efficient manner. The OPEAU found that NCIC provides service to a vast array of customers, at all levels of government, and is able to do so without significant complaint from its "customers." The NICS system was found to be performing adequately at present, but found the system to be "aging" and in need of an upgrade within the next five years. The absence of conflict is attributable to the work being done by NCIC, coupled with the advising and governing role played by the Advisory Policy Board (APB). In addition, OPEAU cited the successful "customer driven" intergovernmental cooperation between CJIS and its state counterparts through its APB, although it cited the need to create a formal mechanism to resolve disputes between the APB and the Compact Council. This evaluation was conducted to meet the requirements of a recommendation resulting from the OMB PART process.

GOAL III: ASSIST STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL EFFORTS TO PREVENT OR REDUCE CRIME AND VIOLENCE

GAO Study on the Impact of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Grants

The GAO conducted an evaluation of the impact of COPS grants from January 2004 to August 2005. The GAO assessed: (1) how COPS obligations were distributed and how much was spent; (2) the extent to which COPS expenditures contributed to the increases in the number of police officers and declines in crime nationwide; and (3) the extent to which COPS grants during the 1990s were associated with policing practices that crime literature indicates could be effective.

The COPS Office advances the practice of community policing by: developing innovative programs that respond directly to the emerging needs of state, local, and tribal law enforcement, to shift law enforcement's focus to preventing, rather than reacting to, crime and disorder within their communities; developing state-of-the-art training and technical assistance to enhance law enforcement officers' problem-solving and community interaction skills; promoting collaboration between law enforcement and community members to develop innovative initiatives to prevent crime; and providing responsive, cost effective service delivery to our grantees to ensure success in advancing community policing strategies within their communities. By funding over 13,000 of the nation's 18,000 law enforcement agencies, the COPS Office has helped create a community policing infrastructure across the nation.

The GAO study demonstrated that COPS grants resulted in a significantly greater number of law enforcement officers than would have been expected without grant funds, are associated with increasing the community policing capacity of law enforcement agencies and have produced reductions in violent and property crimes.

GOAL IV: ENSURE THE FAIR AND EFFICIENT OPERATION OF THE FEDERAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Feasibility of Upgrading Minimum/Low Security Institutions to Higher Security Facilities

The Bureau of Prisons (BOP) prepared a study on the feasibility of modifying and/or upgrading existing low and minimum security prisons to accommodate higher level security inmates. The study addressed the basic key security features necessary to house medium or high security inmates and reviewed BOP's current low and minimum security facilities as candidates for consideration. Based on specific criteria, three of the low-security institutions were selected for closer evaluation in this study. After a thorough evaluation, the study concluded that the costs for converting the institutions are substantial and do not provide a good value to the taxpayer. Therefore, overall this type of conversion was not recommended. The Department has contracted with the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) to conduct an independent review and verification of the methodology and cost factors used in the study. This evaluation was conducted to meet the requirements of a recommendation resulting from the OMB PART process.