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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

October 18, 2017

The Honorable Kari A. Bingen
Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence
Department of Defense
3010 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Ms. Bingen:

I write to request information regarding the actions that the Department of Defense is taking in response to a recent Inspector General report detailing troubling failures at the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) in the management of Communication Service Authorizations (CSA), through which the Department purchases telecommunications services.¹

The Department of Defense Inspector General found numerous instances of CSAs which were allowed to continue beyond their expiration dates, meaning that there is no assurance either that the contract represents the best available value or that the services are still needed at all. As of September 2, 2016, 1,077 CSAs within the jurisdiction of the Defense Information Technology Contracting Organization (DITCO) had continued beyond their expiration date.² These expired CSAs had expiration dates as early as 1972, in two cases were for the same services as a newer contract, and in one case were for service at a military base that had been closed for five years.³

The report found that DITCO personnel were focused on awarding new CSAs and did not adequately oversee existing contracts, maintain adequate contract files, or properly follow regulations prescribing policy for awarding CSAs. As a result, some expired CSAs were allowed to continue despite the fact that personnel were unable to determine if a valid need still existed and there was no ability to ensure that the Department received the best value for necessary services. The Inspector General estimated that these inadequate controls led the Department to make at least \$80.9 million in improper payments.⁴

In order to better understand how the Department of Defense plans to implement the recommendations that the Inspector General made and with which DISA agreed, please provide a written response to the following questions no later than November 7, 2017:

¹ Department of Defense Inspector General, *Defense Information Systems Agency's Expired Communication Service Authorizations* (DODIG-2017-113) (Aug. 25, 2017).

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

1. Has DISA completed a comprehensive list of CSAs that have expired or are about to expire? If not, when is the list expected to be complete? If so, please provide a copy of the list.
2. Have all expired CSAs been either discontinued or re-awarded? If not, please describe the timeline for completion of this process.
3. Has DISA completed its review of all soon-to-expire CSAs and determined whether they should be discontinued or re-awarded upon expiration? If not, please describe the timeline for completion of this process.
4. DISA stated in its response to the report that a new management module for tracking the status of CSAs will be implemented in the second quarter of FY 2018 (i.e., by March 31, 2018). Please describe the timeline for the implementation of this tool.
5. DISA stated in its response to the report that it is modifying its existing procedures to ensure that CSAs are re-awarded or discontinued prior to expiration and that contract files sufficient to constitute a complete history of the transaction are preserved and maintained. What is the timeline for the completion of these revised procedures?
6. Some payments on expired CSAs may have been improper. What actions are being taken to determine if improper payments were made and to initiate recovery actions? What is the timeline for completion of the improper payments review?
7. DITCO stated in its response to the report that it had updated its procedures to include regular account reconciliations to identify and prevent overpayments and confirm the accuracy of contract obligations. Have these procedures been implemented? If not, please describe the timeline for implementation.

If you have any questions related to this request, please contact Michael Broome with my staff at (202) 224-9142. Please send any official correspondence relating to this request to Amanda_Trosen@hsgac.senate.gov.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill
Ranking Member

cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman