



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
4800 MARK CENTER DRIVE
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22350-1500

March 20, 2025

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Eric S. Schmitt
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Wyden and Schmitt:

I write to provide additional information in response to your letter of December 4, 2024, in which you asked the Department of Defense Office of Inspector General (DoD OIG) to investigate the DoD's failure to secure its unclassified communication devices and collaboration tools from foreign espionage, thereby posing serious risks to U.S. national security. The DoD OIG provided an initial response to your letter on February 12, 2025. A copy of that response is enclosed for your reference.

On March 3, 2025, leadership from the DoD OIG's Audit Component met with Senator Wyden's Senior Advisor for Privacy and Cybersecurity to obtain additional information needed to prioritize and scope our plan to address the concerns identified in your letter. Based on that very helpful and productive meeting, we plan to initiate the following three projects in the stated order.

- **Security over DoD's Unclassified Mobile Communication Devices.** This project will focus on the security requirements in the Spiral 4 contract and the enforcement of those requirements to include the sharing of results from third-party assessments, controls specific to encryption, and vulnerabilities specific to the SS7 protocol. We plan to initiate this project as soon as March 2025, and plan to issue a final report no later than the 4th quarter of FY 2025.
- **Security over DoD's Collaboration Tools.** This project will focus on the encryption of unclassified data and voice communications using collaboration tools. We plan to initiate this project once the Unclassified Mobile Communication Device project is completed and pending potential resourcing constraints.
- **Security over DoD's Plain Old Telephone System.** This project will focus on the DoD's use of end-to-end encryption for unclassified voice communications using the desktop Plain Old Telephone System and be included in our FY 2026 project plan and initiated once the Collaboration Tools project is completed and pending potential resourcing constraints.

Thank you for your support of the DoD OIG's independent oversight of the DoD. We will keep your staff informed of our progress on these projects. Meanwhile, if you or your staff have further questions on this matter, please contact me at (703) 699-7372 or jaryd.bern@dodig.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JARYD BERN', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jaryd Bern
Assistant Inspector General for Legislative
Affairs and Communications

Enclosure: As stated.



INSPECTOR GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
4800 MARK CENTER DRIVE
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22350-1500

February 12, 2025

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Eric S. Schmitt
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Wyden and Schmitt:

Thank you for your letter dated December 4, 2024, in which you asked my office to investigate the Department of Defense's (DoD) failure to secure its unclassified telephone communications from foreign espionage, thereby posing serious risks to U.S. national security.

On January 15, 2025, leadership from our Audit Component met with leadership from the office of the DoD Chief Information Officer to discuss the DoD's security requirements for unclassified telephone communications. Based on that meeting and your request, we are assessing the extent to which the DoD is effectively meeting those requirements and whether further oversight is required. Once we complete our assessment we would be happy to discuss the results with you or your staff.

Thank you for your support of the DoD OIG's mission to conduct independent oversight of the DoD. If you have further questions on this matter, please contact me directly, or your staff may contact my Assistant Inspector General for Legislative Affairs and Communications, Mr. Jaryd Bern, at (703) 699-7372 or jaryd.bern@dodig.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steven A. Stebbins", is positioned above the printed name.

Steven A. Stebbins
Acting