



**OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
Department of Homeland Security

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**For Information Contact:**  
Public Affairs (202) 254-4100

**Improved Coordination Needed to Meet Cyber Threats**

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has strengthened its coordination of cybersecurity missions, but it still faces significant challenges in its efforts to stage coordinated responses to threats, according to a new report by the Office of Inspector General (OIG).

OIG conducted this performance audit to determine whether DHS and three of its component agencies have well-delineated cyber roles and responsibilities, a process for information sharing, and the ability coordinate a national response to cyber incidents. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), National Protection and Programs Directorate, and United States Secret Service (USSS) each have key roles in cybersecurity. The audit identified vulnerabilities due to a lack of coordination, guidance, training, and compliance with existing policies. The report recommended that DHS:

- Develop a strategic plan to improve cyber awareness in all of its agencies.
- Establish a department-wide cyber training program.
- Create a department-wide system for sharing cyber security information.
- Make technical enhancements to strengthen information systems.
- Bring ICE and USSS into full compliance with information security policies.

“DHS plays a pivotal role in coordinating the national response to cyber incidents that result from the vulnerabilities created by our increased reliance on IT systems. While our audit showed improved coordination between DHS components in carrying out their cybersecurity functions, we have identified duplication of effort and lack of effective policies and controls,” said Inspector General John Roth. He urged DHS and component officials to continue their efforts to improve to coordination and integration of their resources.

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