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OIG Examines Conditions at Detention Centers for Alien Children

The Office of Inspector General (OIG), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), today issued the first of a series of reports on conditions at detention centers being used to temporarily house unaccompanied alien children.

The report is based on 87 unannounced site visits conducted by OIG agents from July 1-16 at 63 detention centers in Texas, Arizona and California, largely operated by Customs and Border Protection. The OIG's oversight of the detention centers is ongoing and reports will be issued monthly.

The OIG's findings are contained in a memorandum from Inspector General John Roth to Homeland Security Secretary Jeh C. Johnson.

OIG Agents checked the sites for sanitation, availability of medical care, food services and other factors. Sites and their staff were found to be largely in compliance with rules and regulations. Some problems were identified, including children requiring treatment for communicable diseases and DHS employees who have become ill from contact with their charges.

"The OIG is responsible for providing oversight to DHS and its agencies," said Roth. "The challenges posed by this influx of unaccompanied alien children are immediate and ongoing. They require a proactive, constructive response by my office."

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