

## **Statement to accompany release of the NRO IG Special Review of the NRO Polygraph Program**

In July 2012, news media reporting questioned aspects of the National Reconnaissance Office's (NRO) polygraph program. That same month, the Director of the NRO asked the NRO Office of Inspector General (OIG) to look into the assertions. Subsequently, Senator Charles Grassley, Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, also requested the NRO OIG review the NRO's polygraph program and crimes reporting process.

The NRO OIG issued its final report, "Special Review of the NRO Polygraph Program," on March 31, 2014. The special review concluded that the media allegations contained inaccuracies, but found factors that contributed to the perceptions reported in the articles. The review identified improvements needed in the NRO polygraph program. Specifically, the report included eight recommendations focused on enhancing existing policy and operating guidance, improving in-house polygraph training, and re-evaluating measures used for polygraph examiner appraisals. NRO management concurred with all of the recommendations and the NRO has already implemented or planned corrective actions. Specific examples of how the NRO has addressed recommendations are:

- In an effort to strengthen our continuing polygraph education program, the NRO designated a senior polygraph manager to serve as the focal point for training. This officer will continue to enhance and document training guidance. NRO complies with federal requirements for mandatory continuing education and our quality assurance standards comply with federal standards.
- Beginning in June 2013, the NRO initiated a review of the polygraph quality assurance program, resulting in several improvements and a streamlined quality assurance process.
- In the past year, the NRO took extensive steps to address issues related to assessing polygraph examiner performance, including participating in a performance management workshop and revising performance objectives.

The NRO continues to address the remaining recommendations dealing with administrative issues and record keeping. NRO professionals dedicated to this effort will continue to improve programs and address concerns with the same high level of attention they take in accomplishing the NRO's daily mission.

The NRO appreciates the reviews and recommendations made by the NRO OIG. We are taking the right actions in response to their recommendations to ensure we retain the trust and confidence -- internal and external to the NRO -- necessary to accomplish our mission.

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