Federal Information Security Management Act: Fiscal Year 2013 Evaluation (IG-14-004, November 20, 2013)

The NASA Office of Inspector General (OIG) prepared a summary report in response to the fiscal year (FY) 2013 reporting requirements for the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA). In accordance with Office of Management and Budget requirements for this year's review, we examined NASA's efforts in the following 11 areas:

- continuous monitoring management;

- configuration management;

- identity and access management;

- incident response and reporting;

- risk management;

- security training;

- plan of action and milestones;

- remote access management;

- contingency planning;

- contractor systems; and

- security capital planning.

We conducted our work using a sample of 8 Agency systems and 2 contractor systems. We also reviewed NASA's progress in implementing prior OIG recommendations.

Overall, we found that NASA has established a program to address each of the 11 areas we examined. However, we also found that the Agency needs to enhance its efforts with regard to configuration management, risk management, and contractor systems.

By implementing previous OIG recommendations and through related efforts, NASA is steadily working to improve its overall information technology (IT) security posture. Nevertheless, IT security remains a significant challenge for the Agency as it moves toward more effective IT governance and risk management practices. The OIG will continue to assess NASA's IT security program through focused audits of discrete IT issues as well as through our annual FISMA review.

The OMB will provide a consolidated FISMA report to Congress that will include information from our report. However, as an "Intra-Agency Memorandum" our report is considered exempt from release under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA); it also contains NASA Information Technology/Internal Systems Data considered Sensitive But Unclassified and therefore not routinely released under FOIA. To submit a FOIA request, see the online guide.

OMB's report is made available over the Internet (last year's, Fiscal Year 2012 Report to Congress on the Implementation of The Federal Information Security Management Act of 2002, was released by OMB in March 2013).