



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

April 3, 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Evaluation of the Secretary of Defense's Reported Use of a Commercially Available Messaging Application for Official Business
(Project No. D2025-DEV0PC-0095.000)

The purpose of this memorandum is to notify you that we are initiating the subject evaluation. We are conducting this evaluation in response to a March 26, 2025 letter I received from the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, requesting that I conduct an inquiry into recent public reporting on the Secretary of Defense's use of an unclassified commercially available messaging application to discuss information pertaining to military actions in Yemen in March 2025.¹

The objective of this evaluation is to determine the extent to which the Secretary of Defense and other DoD personnel complied with DoD policies and procedures for the use of a commercial messaging application for official business. Additionally, we will review compliance with classification and records retention requirements.

We may revise the objective as the evaluation proceeds. We plan to perform this evaluation in accordance with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency "Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation."

We will perform the evaluation in Washington, D.C. and at the U.S. Central Command Headquarters in Tampa, Florida. We may identify additional locations during the evaluation.

We request that you designate two points of contact for this evaluation within **5 days** of this memorandum. One point of contact should be a Government employee—a GS-15, pay band equivalent, or military equivalent—who is knowledgeable of the subject. The second point of contact should be a member of the Senior Executive Service or a General/Flag Officer who is familiar with the subject and could serve as a point of engagement with DoD Office of Inspector General senior leaders, if necessary. Send each contact's name, title, grade/pay band, phone number, and email address to [REDACTED]

The Inspector General Act of 1978, 5 U.S.C. §§ 401-424, as amended, authorizes us to have access to personnel and materials as we determine necessary to perform our oversight in a timely manner. You can obtain information about the DoD Office of Inspector General from DoD Directive 5106.01, "Inspector General of the Department of Defense (IG DoD)," April 20,

¹ We received similar requests from individual members of Congress and considered those requests in initiating this evaluation.

2012, as amended, and DoD Instruction 7050.03, "DoD Office of Inspector General Access to Records and Information," November 13, 2024. Our website is www.dodig.mil.

If you have any questions, please contact [REDACTED]



Steven A. Stebbins
Acting

Attachment:
Project Announcement Memorandum to DoD Components

cc:
General Counsel of the Department of Defense