



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

September 6, 2022

The Honorable Ron Johnson
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations,
Homeland Security & Government Affairs Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Josh Hawley
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ranking Member Johnson and Senator Hawley,

This is in response to your August 4, 2022 letter requesting that the Department of Defense (DoD) Office of Inspector General (OIG) review whistleblower allegations that hundreds of Afghan evacuees were allowed to enter the United States despite appearing on the DoD's Biometrically Enabled Watchlist, and that officials at the National Security Council and DoD did not follow proper procedures when processing evacuees in Afghanistan and at staging bases.

As part of our ongoing body of work on Afghan evacuees, we are initiating an evaluation, to commence in the first quarter of FY 2023, to address your questions pertaining to the DoD's role in reviewing DoD databases for information on Afghan evacuees when requested by other agencies. In February 2022, we issued Report No. DODIG-2022-065, "Evaluation of the Screening of Displaced Persons from Afghanistan," that detailed the extent to which the DoD managed and tracked displaced persons from Afghanistan through the biometric enrollment, screening, and vetting process. In addition, we have an ongoing evaluation on security and life support practices for Afghan evacuees at Camp Bondsteel in Kosovo.

For the remainder of the questions in your letter, we determined that the OIGs for the respective agencies with jurisdiction over those matters, copied on my response, are better suited to respond.

We appreciate your interest in our work and we will keep you informed about the progress about our current and future work. If you have any additional questions, please contact me or direct your staff to contact Mr. Michael C. Zola, Assistant Inspector General for Legislative Affairs and Communications, at (703) 604-8324.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean W. O'Donnell".

Sean W. O'Donnell
Acting Inspector General

cc:

The Honorable John Ossoff, Chairman, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations
The Honorable Lloyd Austin, Secretary of Defense
The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security
The Honorable Joseph Cuffari, Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security
The Honorable Christopher Wray, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
The Honorable Michael Horowitz, Inspector General, Department of Justice