

Opening Statement **Chairman Jason Chaffetz** (As prepared)

We are here today to talk about some alarming problems at our country's premier law enforcement agencies.

The latest report from the Department of Justice Inspector General outlines a number of problems with the conduct of both law enforcement officers and the agencies that manage them. That report outlined a number of problems:

First, law enforcement personnel at home and abroad engaged in reprehensible sexual harassment and misconduct that jeopardized our national security;

Second, the agencies where they work mishandled their responses to those incidents by failing to properly report them, leading to insufficient punishment; and

Third, the FBI and DEA tried to hide these incidents from the IG by improperly withholding information and encouraging employees not to cooperate with the Inspector General.

Hiding information from the IG is simply and totally unacceptable.

The DOJ IG Report documents a number of highly concerning findings about federal law enforcement. One of the most shocking incidents Mr. Horowitz described in his report involved DEA agents in Colombia partying with prostitutes paid for by drug cartels.

While the DEA agents were spending time with those prostitutes, local Colombian police were watching the agents' guns and property. The fact that this happened at all was bad enough. But none of these agents were really even punished by the DEA.

Most of the agents involved were suspended for a few days and allowed to return to work with their secret clearances fully intact.

So these agents compromised our national security and then essentially got a vacation. There is no accountability and that is unacceptable.

The IG report found this was hardly an isolated incident.

The report highlights repeated abuses of sexual misconduct, including:

- Unreported cases of ATF training instructors sleeping with their students;
- Using government vehicles to facilitate inappropriate sexual relationships; and
- Managers sexually harassing employees and asking them to watch pornography.

The report makes clear that when law enforcement agents engage in inappropriate and illicit sexual behavior, the agency they work for looks the other way. To use the IG's language, these cases of sexual misconduct are treated as "local management issues." In other words, they sweep it under the rug.

Adding to the concerns raised in this report is the fact the DEA and the FBI tried to hide these incidents from their own inspector general. Both the DEA and the FBI went out of their way to impede and delay the IG's report.

According to the report, the DEA and the FBI delayed responding to requests for information, provided heavily redacted documents, and even told their employees not to cooperate.

For example, the IG asked the DEA to run more than 40 search terms to identify relevant documents... The DEA ran three.

When the DEA did finally provide information after significant delay, in some cases documents were so heavily redacted the IG couldn't even tell what the documents were about.

We cannot allow agencies refuse to provide information to Inspectors General. Here, this is particularly egregious since these agencies had so much to hide.

We have a lot of questions for our witnesses who are here today testifying on behalf of the DEA and the FBI.

It is incumbent upon the leadership of these law enforcement agencies to weed out employees who put our security at risk, embarrass the country, and break the law.

Those good men and women - and I recognize they are a small percentage of the total population - have not been held accountable for their dangerous lapses in judgment.

We need to understand why; this needs to end.

We appreciate Mr. Horowitz and his team bringing this to our attention.

I look forward to learning more from our other witnesses, DEA Administrator Michele Leonhart, and FBI Associate Deputy Director Kevin L. Perkins.