

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074  
MINORITY (202) 225-5051

<http://oversight.house.gov>

February 5, 2016

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro  
Comptroller General of the United States  
U.S. Government Accountability Office  
441 G Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

The Interagency Security Committee (ISC)—an organization chaired by the Secretary of Homeland Security—has developed standards for protective measure at non-military facilities. ISC standards require federal agencies to undergo periodic risk assessments. These are designed to determine whether a facility has sufficient protective measures and, if not, identify the most cost-effective protective measures. Over 30 federal agencies, including the Federal Protective Service (FPS) in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) are responsible for non-military federal building security, through countermeasures, such as active patrols, identification badges, blast resistant windows, and intrusion detection systems.

GAO has identified the need for improvements in risk management programs for facility protection. While FPS has made some progress in that regard, much more remains to be done. Furthermore, GAO also reported in 2013 that most non-military executive branch agencies that are not protected by FPS nonetheless used some ISC standards. However, the extent of the use of these standards was varied and, in many cases, limited.

The Committee requests further GAO work in this area, specifically focusing on how agencies with protective responsibilities are using risk management to help ensure that federal facilities are protected by the appropriate countermeasures, consistent with ISC standards. The Committee is also interested in ISC's progress in promoting the use of its standards, as well as lessons learned. The Committee understands that GAO may use a selection of agencies to conduct this work. Please consider the following questions as part of your review:

1. To what extent do selected civilian federal agencies with facility protection responsibilities use risk assessments in the development of baseline countermeasures—in accordance with ISC standards?
2. To what extent have these agencies implemented the baseline countermeasures that result from any such risk assessments, and what challenges, if any, do they face in doing so?

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro

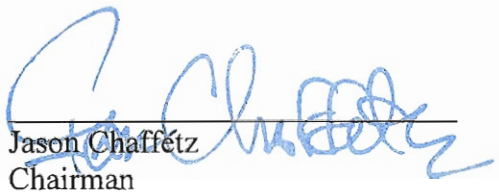
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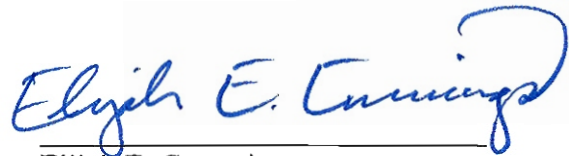
3. What steps has ISC taken, if any, to ensure the use of its standards to improve security and implement lessons learned, and what, if anything, more could ISC do?

Please contact Michael Kiko of the Committee staff at (202) 225-5074 with any questions about this request. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Jason Chaffetz  
Chairman



Elijah E. Cummings  
Ranking Member