



Office of Investigations

BRIEFLY...

March 31, 2017

REVIEW OF JOB CORPS CENTER SAFETY AND SECURITY

WHY OIG CONDUCTED THE REVIEW

In response to two student homicides at Job Corps centers in 2015, and as a follow-on to a prior audit, the Office of Audit (OA) and the Office of Investigations (OI) jointly initiated a review to examine how Job Corps was identifying and managing risks to the safety and security of students and staff at its 129 center campuses.

A 2015 audit by the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General (OIG) identified systemic safety-related weaknesses at centers. Consistent with earlier audits we performed in 2009 and 2010, our 2015 audit identified serious deficiencies in center management's enforcement and Job Corps' oversight of student disciplinary policies. This follow-on review examined three additional areas of Job Corps operations that impact center safety and security.

WHAT OIG DID

We conducted this review to examine:

- Job Corps' actions in response to potentially serious criminal misconduct
- Physical security at Job Corps centers
- Job Corps' efforts to mitigate violence and other serious crimes at its centers

READ THE FULL REPORT

To view the report, including the scope, methodology, and full agency response, go to: <http://www.oig.dol.gov/public/reports/oa/26-17-001-03-370.pdf>.

WHAT OIG FOUND

Job Corps did not respond effectively to potentially serious criminal misconduct. Eleven centers we reviewed did not contact law enforcement for 140 (40 percent) of the 348 potentially serious criminal misconduct incidents logged by Job Corps. Twelve centers did not report numerous significant incidents to Job Corps, and misclassified many of the significant incidents they did report to Job Corps. Furthermore, 41 (32 percent) of 129 centers and satellites did not establish cooperative agreements with law enforcement organizations. Seventy-five (85 percent) of the 88 centers that did establish agreements failed to include adequate descriptions of center and law enforcement roles and responsibilities. None included federal, state, and local law enforcement offices as required.

Physical security weaknesses related to campus access and monitoring existed at the 12 centers visited. These weaknesses included inadequate and unmonitored closed circuit television (CCTV) systems, security staff shortages, and compromised perimeters. Additionally, we found 31 (24 percent) of 129 centers and satellites provided physical security strategies that exceeded the minimal Job Corps requirements, but Job Corps had not developed effective processes to share the best practices or incorporate them into center guidance.

Job Corps' mitigation efforts lacked a continuous evaluation and improvement process. Job Corps has made efforts to mitigate violence and other serious crimes at its centers. However, these efforts occurred after our 2015 Job Corps Center Safety audit and the two student murders. OIG has reported on Job Corps not addressing violence and other student misconduct since 2009. Additionally, Job Corps' mitigation efforts did not address the need for a comprehensive policy defining the center employment positions that should be subject to background checks or how the results of such background checks would be evaluated.

WHAT OIG RECOMMENDED

In general, we recommended the Acting ETA Assistant Secretary establish, clarify, and/or enforce policy as needed for each of our three review areas. ETA said our recommended corrective actions had been implemented or will be implemented. ETA expressed concerns with some of the underlying premises in our report, but their comments did not result in any changes to the report.