



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
INSPECTOR GENERAL
WASHINGTON DC 20420

NOV 12 2013

The Honorable Jeff Miller
Chairman
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

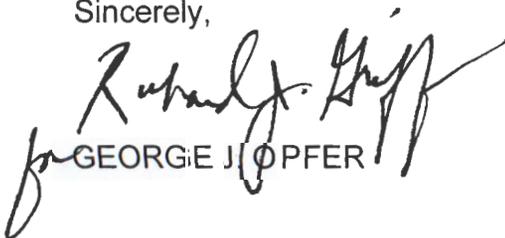
It has recently come to our attention that VA notified the Committee that in order to address the Committee's concerns regarding the security of VA's information technology (IT) systems, VA requested the Office of Inspector General (OIG) to expand the scope of the fiscal year (FY) 2013 annual reviews under the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA). The OIG notified VA on November 7, 2013, that we would not expand the FY 2013 FISMA review.

The FY 2013 audit objective was to determine the extent to which VA's information security program complies with FISMA requirements; Department of Homeland Security (DHS) reporting requirements; and applicable Office of Management and Budget and National Institute for Standards and Technology guidance. We contract with the independent accounting firm CliftonLarsonAllen LLP to perform this work on an annual basis with significant testing occurring from March 2013 to September 2013. Our FY 2013 audit work is substantially complete and in fact the required FISMA narrative submission is due to OMB later this month.

We informed VA that for FY 2014, we would consider expanding the scope of our FISMA work if appropriate, but we would need to modify our existing contract with CliftonLarsonAllen LLP or pursue other acquisition strategies to compensate for the increased level of effort to address the Congressional inquiries. If we did take on this additional work, it would not be completed until November 2014, which is the due date for the FY 2014 FISMA review, and which may not meet the Committee's timelines or the broad scope of your interests.

A similar letter has been sent to Congresswoman Mike Michaud, Ranking Member of the Committee.

Sincerely,


for GEORGE J. JOFFER