EVALUATION REPORT

REDACTED VERSION

Information System Security
Evaluation of the Technical Training
Center – Chattanooga, TN

OIG-09-A-11 July 22, 2009

All publicly available OIG reports are accessible through
NRC's Web site at:
http:/www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/insp-gen/

Office of the Inspector General
Information System Security Evaluation of the Technical Training Center – Chattanooga, TN

Contract Number: GS-00F-0001N
Delivery Order Number: 20291

July 21, 2009

The views, opinions, and findings contained in this report are those of the authors and should not be construed as an official Nuclear Regulatory Commission position, policy, or decision, unless so designated by other official documentation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Technical Training Center (TTC) was established in Chattanooga in 1980 as part of an expanded program of training based primarily on lessons learned from the Three Mile Island incident. Chattanooga was originally selected as the site for enhanced inspector training because of the need to make greater use in the agency's technical training programs of reactor simulators owned by the Tennessee Valley Authority. Since 1980, the NRC has purchased its own simulators and currently has four operating at the Chattanooga site.

On December 17, 2002, the President signed the E-Government Act of 2002, which included the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) of 2002. FISMA outlines the information security management requirements for agencies, which include an annual independent evaluation of an agency's information security program[1] and practices to determine their effectiveness. This evaluation must include testing the effectiveness of information security policies, procedures, and practices for a representative subset of the agency's information systems. FISMA also requires assessment of compliance with FISMA requirements and related information security policies, procedures, standards, and guidelines. FISMA requires the annual evaluation to be performed by the agency's Inspector General or by an independent external auditor.

The NRC Office of the Inspector General (OIG) requested that the four NRC regional offices and the TTC be included in the independent evaluation of the agency's implementation of FISMA for fiscal year 2009. Information security policies, procedures, and practices at the regional offices and the TTC were last assessed in 2003 and 2006. This report describes evaluation findings for the TTC.

PURPOSE

The objectives of the information system security evaluation of the TTC were to:

- Evaluate the adequacy of NRC's information security program and practices for NRC automated information systems as implemented at the TTC.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of agency information security control techniques as implemented at the TTC.
- Evaluate corrective actions planned and taken as a result of previous OIG evaluations.

[1] For the purposes of FISMA, the agency uses the term "information system security program."

RESULTS IN BRIEF

The TTC has made improvements in its implementation of NRC's information system security program and practices for NRC automated information systems since the previous evaluations in 2003 and 2006. All corrective actions from the previous evaluations have been implemented. However, the information system security practices are not always consistent with the NRC's automated information systems security program as defined in Management Directive (MD) and Handbook 12.5, *NRC Automated Information Systems Security Program*, other NRC policies, FISMA, and National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) guidance. While many of the TTC's automated and manual security controls are generally effective, some security controls need improvement. Areas needing improvement included: physical and environmental security controls, continuity of operations and emergency planning, and configuration management. Specifies cannot be presented in this publically released version of the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

This report makes recommendations to the Executive Director for Operations to improve NRC's information system security program and implementation of FISMA at the TTC.

THE FULL REPORT CONTAINS SECURITY RELATED INFORMATION THAT IS NOT RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL AT 301-415-5915.