March 3, 2016

Linda Halliday
Deputy Inspector General
Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General
801 I Street, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20001


Dear Deputy Inspector General Halliday:

We have reviewed the system of internal safeguards and management procedures for the Office of Investigations of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General (VA-OIG) in effect for the period October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2014. Our review was conducted in conformity with the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) Quality Standards for Investigations, the Quality Assessment Review Guidelines established by the CIGIE, and the Attorney General's Guidelines for Office of Inspectors General with Statutory Law Enforcement Authority, as applicable.

In performing our review, we have given consideration to the prerequisites of Section 6(e) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (as amended) and Section 812 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Pub.L. 107-296). Those documents authorize law enforcement powers for eligible personnel of each of the various offices of presidentially appointed Inspectors General. Those powers may be exercised only for activities authorized by the Inspector General Act of 1978, other statutes, or as expressly authorized by the Attorney General.

The review was conducted at the headquarters office in Washington, D.C., and the Dallas and Los Angeles field locations. Additionally, a sample of 55 case files for investigations was reviewed. Whistleblower retaliation cases and Hotline administration were not reviewed as it was determined these functions were outside of the purview of VA-OIG's Office of investigations.

In our opinion, the system of internal safeguards and management procedures for the investigative function of the VA OIG in effect for October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2014, is in compliance with the quality standards established by CIGIE and the Attorney General Guidelines. These safeguards and procedures provide reasonable assurance of conforming to professional standards in the conduct of its investigations.
I would like to commend your staff for their professionalism during the course of this review. I would also like to thank them for their assistance in providing the Review Team accurate and timely responses to their inquiries.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Christy Goldsmith Romero
Special Inspector General

Cc: U.S. Department of Justice
Attn: Attorney General (CIGIE Investigative Peer Review)
950 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20530

Executive Director
Counsel of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency
1717 H Street NW, Suite 825
Washington, DC 20006