




July 25, 2014

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Dr. Kathryn Sullivan  
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere  
and NOAA Administrator

**FROM:** Allen Crawley   
Assistant Inspector General for Systems Acquisition  
and IT Security

**SUBJECT:** NOAA Concerns Regarding  
*Significant Security Deficiencies in NOAA's Information Systems  
Create Risk in Its National Critical Mission*  
Final Report No. OIG-14-025-A

The issuance of this report followed established procedures allowing for NOAA's review and comments on our draft report dated May 9, 2014. We received NOAA's written comments by memorandum dated June 6, 2014; it was included as appendix C in the final report. NOAA concurred with each of our recommendations.

On July 15, 2014, we issued our final report to NOAA. After the report was issued, NOAA requested additional time to comment on it. Additionally, NOAA raised a concern that the report contained classified information because it discussed the Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP), an unclassified system that NOAA maintains and operates on behalf of the U.S. Air Force. NOAA immediately began coordinating with the Air Force to address this concern.

On July 22, 2014, we were advised that the Air Force had reviewed our report and confirmed that the information contained in it was unclassified.

On July 23, 2014, we met with NOAA senior officials to discuss additional concerns NOAA has about the report. After carefully considering NOAA's concerns, we decided not to make any changes to the final report that we issued on July 15, 2014.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 482-1855 or Dr. Ping Sun, Director for IT security, at (202) 482-6121.

cc: Steve Cooper, Chief Information Officer  
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