

Transcript: “A Message from the Inspector General: Audit of the U.S. Marshals Service’s Controls Over Weapons, Munitions, and Explosives,” September 2018

Hello, I’m Michael Horowitz, Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Justice.

Today, our office released a report examining the controls that the U.S. Marshals Service has over weapons, munitions, and explosives. We found that the Marshals Service generally had strong physical controls over its weapons, munitions, and explosives. They also had strong inventory controls over explosives.

However, we identified significant concerns with the Marshal’s Service inventory controls over ammunition. In particular, the Marshal’s Service existing policies did not explicitly include its ammunition tracking requirements, and we found that the Marshals Service had not tracked about 2 and a half million rounds of ammunition. Separately, we identified 110 firearms that the Marshals Service had not properly tracked for as long as 16 months. This created a risk that the firearms could be lost, misplaced, stolen, or otherwise compromised without detection. We also found that 23 firearms were reported lost or stolen, but the Marshals Service did not track whether the firearms were recovered after the completion of the Internal Affairs investigation.

We identified several other areas of concern regarding the Marshals Service inventory policies, all of which are detailed in today’s report. Overall, we concluded that the Marshals Service needs to implement stronger controls in order in order to safeguard its weapons, munitions, and explosives.

To read the full report, please visit our website, oig.justice.gov, or go to Oversight.gov. Thank you for joining us.

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