



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DOJ OIG Releases Management Advisory Memorandum of Concerns the Drug Enforcement Administration's and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Handling of Employee Issued Firearms Pending Destruction

Department of Justice (DOJ) Inspector General Michael E. Horowitz announced today the release of a Management Advisory Memorandum to the Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) regarding the handling of employee-issued firearms pending destruction. The OIG identified these concerns in connection with an investigation of a recovered privately made firearm, also known as a "Ghost Gun," that contained an unserialized frame attached to a slide and barrel of a DEA employee issued firearm. These parts were submitted for destruction by the DEA in 2019 but were recovered during an arrest of a private citizen by local law enforcement in 2023.

The OIG found that in 2019, the DEA and FBI stored slides and barrels from firearms that were pending destruction in open bins accessible to thousands of DEA and FBI employees and contractors. While the DEA and FBI have both stated that they are no longer storing firearm parts in these open bins, neither agency has policies to address this issue. Specifically:

- DEA does not have any official policies regarding the storage, documentation, and safe handling of employee issued firearms pending destruction, and
- FBI's policies have significant gaps with respect to the destruction of employee issued firearms.

We concluded that inadequate policies regarding the destruction of employee issued firearms create significant risks that firearms or their parts could be lost or stolen and used in subsequent crimes without accountability.

The DOJ OIG made two recommendations to the DEA and two recommendations to the FBI to address the concerns we identified. The DEA and FBI agreed with the recommendations.

Memorandum: Today's memorandum is available [on our website](#).

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