



INSPECTOR GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
4800 MARK CENTER DRIVE
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22350-1500

April 2, 2024

The Honorable Joni K. Ernst
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael J. Gallagher
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Ernst/Representative Gallagher:

Thank you for your letter on January 25, 2024, regarding the requirement in Section 252 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2024 (H.R. 2670) for the Department of Defense Office of Inspector General (DoD OIG) to identify diversion of DoD funding provided to China's Research Labs.

On February 1, 2024, we requested information from the DoD on any DoD funding provided to the People's Republic of China or its affiliates for research activities relevant to the NDAA reporting requirement. More recently, on March 8, 2024, the DoD OIG formally announced an audit that will determine the extent to which the DoD awarded Federal funds directly or indirectly through grants, contracts, subgrants, subcontracts, or any other type of agreement or collaboration, during the 10-year period from 2014 through 2023, to Chinese research labs or to fund research or experiments in China or other foreign countries designed to enhance pathogens of pandemic potential. Copies of the DoD OIG's request for information and subsequent audit announcement are enclosed for your convenience.

We will keep you apprised of our progress on this reporting requirement. If you have further questions, you may contact me or my Assistant Inspector General for Legislative Affairs and Communications, Jaryd Bern at Jaryd.Bern@dodig.mil, or (703) 699-7372.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert P. Storch".

Robert P. Storch
Inspector General

Enclosures:

1. Request for Information, dated February 1, 2024
2. Announcement memorandum, dated March 8, 2024



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
4800 MARK CENTER DRIVE
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22350-1500

February 1, 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Request for Information Related to DoD Funds Provided to the People’s Republic of China or its Affiliates for Research Activities

The purpose of this memorandum is to request information in response to Public Law 118-31, “The FY 2024 National Defense Authorization Act,” section 252, “Audit to Identify Diversion of Department of Defense Funding to China’s Research Labs. Section 252 requires our office to identify and report to Congressional Defense Committees:

...the amount of Federal funds awarded by the Department of Defense (whether directly or indirectly) through grants, contracts, subgrants, subcontracts, or any other type of agreement or collaboration, during the 10-year period immediately preceding such date of enactment, that—

- (1) was provided, whether purposely or inadvertently, to—
 - (A) the People’s Republic of China;
 - (B) the Communist Party of China;
 - (C) the Wuhan Institute of Virology or any other organization administered by the Chinese Academy of Sciences;
 - (D) EcoHealth Alliance Inc. for work performed in China on research supported by the Government of China, including any subsidiaries and related organizations that are directly controlled by EcoHealth Alliance, Inc.;
 - (E) the Academy of Military Medical Sciences or any of its research institutes, including the Beijing Institute of Microbiology and Epidemiology; or
 - (F) any other lab, agency, organization, individual, or instrumentality that is owned, controlled (directly or indirectly), or overseen (officially or unofficially) by any of the entities listed in subparagraphs (A) through (E); or
- (2) was used to fund research or experiments that could have reasonably resulted in the enhancement of any coronavirus, influenza, Nipah, Ebola, or other pathogen of pandemic potential or chimeric versions of such a virus or pathogen in the People’s Republic of China or any other foreign country.

Section 252 also requires our office to identify “(1) the countries in which the research or experiments described in subsection (a)(2) was conducted; and (2) the pathogens involved in such research or experiments.”

As a result of this request for information, we may initiate an audit or evaluation, make investigative referrals, or issue management advisories or other products depending on the issues that we identify.

We may contact senior officials and managers at various offices within the DoD to obtain additional information related to our request and we may identify locations to visit.

We request that you designate a staff member to serve as our point of contact for this request within **5 days** of this memorandum. The point of contact should be a Government employee—a GS-15, pay band equivalent, or military equivalent—and knowledgeable about the subject matter outlined in Section 252, Public Law 118-31, and the systems and databases related to the objective.

Send the contact's name, title, grade/pay band, phone number, and email address to audfmr@dodig.mil.

The Inspector General Act of 1978, 5 U.S.C. §§ 401-424, as amended, authorizes us to have access to personnel and materials as we determine necessary to perform our oversight in a timely manner. You can obtain information about the DoD Office of Inspector General from DoD Directive 5106.01, "Inspector General of the Department of Defense (IG DoD)," April 20, 2012, as amended, and DoD Instruction 7050.03, "Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense Access to Records and Information," March 22, 2013, as amended. Our website is www.dodig.mil.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ted R. Paulson at (317) 715-1152/ Ted.Paulson@dodig.mil or Mr. Taylor D. Heim at (703) 604-8923/ Taylor.Heim@dodig.mil.

FOR THE INSPECTOR GENERAL:



Lorin T. Venable, CPA
Assistant Inspector General for Audit
Financial Management and Reporting

DISTRIBUTION:

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OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
4800 MARK CENTER DRIVE
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22350-1500

March 8, 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Review of DoD Funds Provided to People's Republic of China and Associated Affiliates or Any Foreign Countries for Pathogen Research (Project No. D2024-D000FL-0095.000)

The purpose of this memorandum is to notify you that we plan to begin the subject review in March 2024 as required by Public Law 118-31, "The FY 2024 National Defense Authorization Act," section 252.

The objective of this review is to determine the extent to which the DoD awarded Federal funds directly or indirectly through grants, contracts, subgrants, subcontracts, or any other type of agreement or collaboration, during the 10-year period from 2014 through 2023, to Chinese research labs or to fund research or experiments in China or other foreign countries designed to enhance pathogens of pandemic potential.

We may revise the objective as the review proceeds and will consider suggestions from management for additional or revised objectives. We plan to perform this review in accordance with Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, "Quality Standards for Federal Offices of Inspector General."

We will perform the review at the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Research and Engineering), Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, and Office of Naval Research in Arlington, Virginia; Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) and Defense Health Agency in Falls Church, Virginia; Defense Threat Reduction Agency at Fort Belvoir, Virginia; U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command and U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity at Fort Detrick, Maryland; Walter Reed Institute of Research and Naval Medical Research Command in Silver Spring, Maryland; Naval Research Laboratory in Washington D.C.; and Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. We may identify additional DoD Components during the review.

We request that you designate a staff member to serve as our point of contact for this request within **5 days** of this memorandum unless you have provided a point of contact in response to our "Request for Information Related to DoD Funds Provided to the People's Republic of China or its Affiliates for Research Activities," February 1, 2024 (enclosure). The point of contact should be a Government employee—a GS-15, pay band equivalent, or military equivalent—and knowledgeable of contracts and grants awarded for medical research, and the systems and databases related to the objective. Send the contact's name, title, grade/pay band, phone number, and email address to audfmr@dodig.mil.

The Inspector General Act of 1978, 5 U.S.C. §§ 401-424, as amended, authorizes us to have access to personnel and materials as we determine necessary to perform our oversight in a timely manner. You can obtain information about the DoD Office of Inspector General from DoD Directive 5106.01, "Inspector General of the Department of Defense (IG DoD)," April 20, 2012, as amended, and DoD Instruction 7050.03, "Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense Access to Records and Information," March 22, 2013, as amended. Our website is www.dodig.mil.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Craig W. Michaels at (317) 715-1136/Craig.Michaels@dodig.mil, or Mr. Ted R. Paulson at (317) 715-1152/Ted.Paulson@dodig.mil.

FOR THE INSPECTOR GENERAL:



Lorin T. Venable, CPA
Assistant Inspector General for Audit
Financial Management and Reporting

Enclosure:

"Request for Information Related to DoD Funds Provided to the People's Republic of China or its Affiliates for Research Activities," February 1, 2024

DISTRIBUTION:

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