OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

EVALUATION OF THE U.S. INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION'S FISCAL YEAR 2003 INFORMATION SECURITY PROGRAM AND PRACTICES

Audit Report
OIG-AR-03-03

September 22, 2003

INSPECTOR GENERAL

IG-AA-014

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20436

September 22, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: THE COMMISSION

We hereby submit Audit Report No. OIG-AR-03-03, *Evaluation of the U.S. International Trade Commission's Fiscal Year 2003 Information Security Program and Practices.* We conducted an independent evaluation of the Commission's information security program and practices to determine if the Commission: (1) implemented appropriate actions to address recommendations made in OIG-AR-02-02 (September 13, 2002); and (2) met Federal Information Security Management Act criteria.

Generally, the Commission made progress towards strengthening its information security program during the 2003 fiscal year. The most commendable accomplishments include:

- ✓ Filling the position of Chief Information Officer (CIO);
- ✓ Incorporating in the CIO's performance measures the successful resolution of open recommendations in the OIG information technology audit reports;
- ✓ Assessing the costs and benefits of obtaining vendor support for essential information technology services; and
- ✓ Providing technical training to the network administrator, who will oversee outsourced network maintenance as well as other technical staff.

Also, the Commission procured a new network operating system (new ITC-NET) that has the capability to strengthen access controls. We did not test these controls, however, because the Commission had not completed installing it and certifying it for use.

The Commission must take further action in order to achieve consistency with U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular No. A-130, Appendix III *Security of Federal Automated Information Resources* (February 1996). We made 18 recommendations to improve the Commission's IT security. In addition to the 16 recommendations from OIG-AR-02-02 (September 13, 2002), this report identifies 6 new, unreported or partially resolved weaknesses. The Commission concurred with our findings and recommendations.

Due to the sensitive nature of the information contained in our report, we have limited distribution of the report.

Kenneth F. Clarke
Inspector General