

*The Department of the Treasury
Office of Inspector General*

Report Title

PROTECTING THE PUBLIC: U.S. Secret Service's Control Over Seized Property Needs Improvement (OIG-03-013; issued November 5, 2002)

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Synopsis

While the U.S. Secret Service (Secret Service) had strong physical controls limiting access to seized property by non-Secret Service personnel, we noted, based on our observations at eight selected locations that it did not: (1) fully control or document access to seized property by its personnel, (2) package seized property in a way that made it easy to detect tampering or produce a complete and accurate physical inventory, (3) maintain complete, up-to-date seized property records, and (4) conduct appropriate physical inventories of seized property. These weaknesses increased the risk that items of seized property could be lost or stolen and decreased the likelihood that inventory differences would be timely detected. We made seven recommendations to improve controls over seized property. We made seven recommendations to improve controls over seized property.

The Secret Service was divested from the Department of the Treasury to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in March 2003 pursuant to the Homeland Security Act of 2002. Accordingly, audit follow-up is the responsibility of DHS management.