April 1, 2015

The Honorable Jon T. Rymer
Inspector General
Department of Defense
4800 Mark Center Drive, Suite 15G27
Alexandria, VA 22350-1500

Dear Inspector General Rymer:

As you are aware, by order of the Secretary of Defense, Operation ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF) concluded on January 1, 2015, and Operation FREEDOM’S SENTINEL (OFS) commenced. As the Secretary of Defense noted on December 28, 2014, OFS will pursue two missions. The first is to work with U.S. allies and partners as part of NATO’s Resolute Support mission to continue training, advising, and assisting Afghan security forces. The second is to continue our counterterrorism mission against the remnants of Al-Qaeda to ensure that Afghanistan is never again used to stage attacks against our homeland. As determined by the Secretary of Defense, OFS is a contingency operation as defined by 10 U.S.C. §101(a)(13). Counsel for CIGIE has conferred with your General Counsel and confirmed, through him, that the Office of the General Counsel for the Department of Defense considers OFS to be a new and separate overseas contingency operation and not merely a renaming of OEF.

Accordingly, pursuant to §8L(b)(1) of the Inspector General (IG) Act of 1978, as amended, 5 U.S.C. App. 3, I am required to designate a Lead Inspector General (LIG) for this overseas contingency operation (see enclosure) and am hereby appointing you as the LIG. I appreciate your willingness to lead this initiative, in coordination with the Hon. Steve Linick, Inspector General, Department of State and Ms. Catherine Trujillo, Acting Deputy Inspector General, Agency for International Development.

Additionally, I am aware that you have contacted the Hon. John F. Sopko, Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR). As with the previous oversight of U.S. and coalition activities in Afghanistan by the
IGs specified in §8L(c) of the IG Act and SIGAR, it is important that the LIG-OFS and SIGAR cooperate and closely coordinate their current oversight missions. SIGAR's mission, as stated in Section 1229 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, Pub. L. No. 110-181, 122 Stat. 378-85 (2008), includes providing for the independent and objective conduct and supervision of audits and investigations relating to programs and operations funded with amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the reconstruction of Afghanistan. Additionally, pursuant to Section 842, the SIGAR performs audits to identify waste, fraud, and abuse in Federal agency contracts, subcontracts, and task and delivery orders for the performance of security and reconstruction functions in Afghanistan. Both Sections 842(d) and 1229(f)(4) contemplate coordination and close cooperation between the SIGAR and the IGs specified in §8L(c) of the IG Act. Nothing in this designation is intended to limit or otherwise affect the authority and responsibilities of SIGAR as provided in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.

If CIGIE can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Horowitz
Chair

Enclosure

cc:  IG, Department of State
     IG, Agency for International Development
     IG, SIGAR
     CIGIE Executive Director
     CIGIE Executive Chairpersons
By order of the Secretary of Defense, Operation ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF) concluded on January 1, 2015, and Operation FREEDOM’S SENTINEL (OFS) commenced. Under the direction of the Secretary, OFS has two primary missions. First, in conjunction with U.S. allies and partners supporting NATO’s Resolute Support Mission, OFS continues training, advising, and assisting Afghan security forces. Second, it engages in counterterrorism missions against the remnants of Al-Qaeda to ensure that attacks against the U.S. are never again staged from Afghanistan. As determined by the Secretary, OFS is a contingency operation as defined by 10 U.S.C. §101(a) (13). Pursuant to this, as well as §849 of Public Law 112–239, OFS is an overseas contingency operation.

Section 8L of the Inspector General Act of 1978, 5 U.S.C. app., as amended, (IG Act), assigns the Chair of the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) the following responsibilities:

1. In consultation with the Inspectors General of the Department of Defense (DoD), the State Department (DOS) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), designate a lead Inspector General to discharge the authorities of the lead Inspector General for the OCO concerned.
2. Resolve conflicts of jurisdiction among the DoD, DOS and USAID Inspectors General on investigations, inspections and audits with respect to such OCO.
3. Assist the lead Inspector General in identifying other Inspectors General and inspector general office personnel available to assist the lead Inspector General (and the remaining two Inspectors General from the DoD, DOS, or USAID) on matters relating to such OCO.

See U.S.C. app., §8L(b).

In accordance with my authority under §8L of the IG Act, and after consulting with the DoD, DOS and USAID Inspectors General, I hereby designate Jon T. Rymer, Inspector General, DoD, as the lead Inspector General for the above-referenced OCO.

Executed this 1st day of April, 2015.

Michael E. Horowitz
Chair
Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency