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Administration of Justice

LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

TITLE: EFFORTS TO DETECT MONEY LAUNDERING IN CASINOS BY USING CURRENCY TRANSACTION REPORTS (181995)

BACKGROUND : Improved compliance with the Bank Secrecy Act by financial institutions may have forced money launderers to seek other means to hide their illicit profits. The requester has asked us to review the requirements for reporting currency transactions at casinos and the enforcement of reporting requirements.

KEY QUESTIONS : (1) What is the extent of the legalized gambling industry in the U.S.? (2) What currency transaction reporting regulations apply to legalized gambling? (3) To what extent do these regulations apply to gambling on Indian lands? (4) How are the reporting requirements being enforced by federal, state, and tribal officials?

TITLE: FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ON VIOLENT CRIME (182000)

BACKGROUND : Congress & DOJ generally have recognized that localities have primary responsibility for countering violence. In drafting the Anti-Violent Crime Initiative, the AG stated that many local governments lack the resources to address growing violence. The AG ordered federal agencies in each district to develop strategies with states/locals to combat violent crime.

KEY QUESTIONS : 1. What federal assistance is provided to localities to fight violent crime? 2. How is federal assistance responsive to violent crime problems in local communities? 3. What factors, if any, constrain federal cooperation with state/locals and responsiveness to their needs?

TITLE: REVIEW OF DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ROLE IN ADDRESSING HEALTH CARE FRAUD (182003)

BACKGROUND : Health care fraud loss estimates are \$30 billion to \$100 billion annually, about 3 to 10 percent of health care costs. Fraud has many forms, and presents significant challenges to fragmented law enforcement. Justice has designated health care fraud as an enforcement priority and is coordinating federal, state, and private sector enforcement efforts.

KEY QUESTIONS : (1) What actions has Justice taken to manage health care fraud enforcement efforts? (2) How may insurers' concerns about civil liability lawsuits impede information sharing between insurers and law enforcement agencies? (3) What evidence exists for and against establishing a centralized health care fraud database to enhance information sharing and support enforcement efforts?

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LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

TITLE: ARE FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TIMELY ENTERING FEDERAL FUGITIVE RECORDS ON THE NATIONAL WANTED PERSONS DATABASE MAINTAINED BY THE FBI? (182015)

BACKGROUND : Law enforcement agencies generally require entry of fugitive data on a wanted persons database maintained by FBI's National Crime Information Center to facilitate apprehension and reduce risks to law enforcement agents and general public. For example, an officer stopping someone for a traffic violation is alerted if person is wanted and considered dangerous.

KEY QUESTIONS : (1) How long do federal agencies take to enter fugitives on the wanted persons database? (2) Do the agencies have sufficient policies and standards on when to make entries and appropriate mechanisms for ensuring compliance with these policies and standards?

TITLE: REAUTHORIZATION OF THE OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELIQUENCY PREVENTION (182016)

BACKGROUND : The requester asked for information on the management, mission and goals of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) for reauthorization hearings. Future work on another Office of Justice Programs component--the National Institute of Justice (NIJ)--is anticipated after this job.

KEY QUESTIONS : 1) What are the mission, goals and objectives of OJJDP? 2) What processes does OJJDP use to announce and award grants and how do they compare to processes used by National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation? 3) How does OJJDP monitor and evaluate grants? 4) How does OJJDP communicate the results of its research?

TITLE: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ANTI-CAR THEFT ACT OF 1992 (182020)

BACKGROUND : The Anti-Car Theft Act of 1992 was enacted to address the nation's number one property crime--auto theft. The act's requirements include marking of major motor vehicle parts with an identification number, establishing a database for stolen cars and parts, and establishing a title database for motor vehicles. Justice and Transportation are responsible for implementing the act.

KEY QUESTIONS : For act's marking and database-related provisions, determine (1) what are the specific requirements; (2) what is the status (of implementing the requirements); and (3) what, if any, impediments exist to fully implementing the requirements?

Administration of Justice

LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

TITLE: SEX CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN (182021)

BACKGROUND : Congress is considering legislation to combat crime by enhancing the penalties for certain sexual crimes against children.

KEY QUESTIONS : (1) Is there a relationship between incarceration length and recidivism? (2) Is there a relationship between sexual abuse treatment and recidivism? (3) How effective are educational programs in preventing victimization? (4) Are child victims more apt to commit such crimes as adults; and if so, what treatment programs are effective in reducing this likelihood?

TITLE: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OJJDP'S DELINQUENCY PREVENTION GRANTS AND FORMULA GRANT PROGRAM (185008)

BACKGROUND : The Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act provided incentive grants for local delinquency prevention programs. The \$13 million in grants is to serve as a stimulus for local governments to pool resources to develop prevention plans. The Office of JJDP also operates a \$95 million state formula grant program to address other goals.

KEY QUESTIONS : While the language of the act required us to determine the effects of the incentive grants on the formula grant goals, the staff asked that we focus on these questions: (1) Which states/ communities received incentive grants? (2) How much was received? (3) What were the funds used for? (4) Are the incentive grant funds used to support the formula grant goals?

TITLE: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BRADY HANDGUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACT (187010)

BACKGROUND : Phase I of the Brady Act, which requires up to a 5-day waiting period and a background check by local law enforcement officials on prospective handgun purchasers, went into effect 2/28/94 and extends through 11/98. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) is the principal federal agency responsible for implementing Brady.

KEY QUESTIONS : (1) What is being done to ensure background checks are being performed in jurisdictions where sheriffs have refused to do so? (2) How does the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) ensure that gun dealers comply with Brady? (3) How are the results of the Brady Act being measured?

Administration of Justice

LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

TITLE: REVIEW OF ATF'S REGULATION OF FEDERAL FIREARMS DEALERS EARMS DEALERS (187012)

BACKGROUND : The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) licenses and inspects firearms dealers. The number of dealers declined 33.9 percent since fiscal year 1992. The requester is interested in ATF's policies and procedures for carrying out its licensing responsibilities and their relationship to reductions in the number of dealers.

KEY QUESTIONS : (1) What are ATF's policies, procedures, and practices for licensing and inspecting firearms dealers? (2) What is the relationship of ATF policies to declines in number of dealers? (3) What are the views of pertinent organizations on reducing the number of dealers and on the reasons for declines?

TITLE: REVIEW OF ATF'S POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND PRACTICES RELATING TO THE USE OF FORCE (187013)

BACKGROUND : Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) agents are authorized to use force in carrying out their responsibilities. In several highly publicized incidents, ATF has been accused of using excessive force. The requestor is interested in what use-of- force policies, procedures, and controls ATF has; how they are conveyed to agents; and how incidents of excessive force are reviewed.

KEY QUESTIONS : (1) What are ATF's use-of-force policies, procedures, and practices? How do policies compare to those of selected law enforcement agencies? (2) How does ATF convey policies and ensure that agents maintain awareness of them? (3) What are ATF's procedures for reviewing use-of-force incidents? Is ATF complying with them and applying lessons learned?

TITLE: REVIEW OF ATF'S COMPLIANCE WITH LEGAL DATA RESTRICTIONS (187014)

BACKGROUND : The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) is restricted by law (18 U.S.C. 926(a) and relevant appropriation acts) from consolidating or centralizing firearms transaction data. Rumors persist that ATF is maintaining prohibited databases or records. The requester is interested in whether ATF is complying with the data restrictions.

KEY QUESTIONS : (1) Is ATF complying with legal restrictions on centralizing firearms transaction data? (a) What are ATF's policies and procedures for maintaining such data? (b) What ATF databases contain such data? (c) What internal controls does ATF have for preventing and detecting the establishment of prohibited databases?

Administration of Justice

ADJUDICATION & CORRECTIONS

TITLE: PRIVATIZATION OF CORRECTIONS: PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE (182827)

BACKGROUND : The use of privately managed prisons & jails to supplement public systems has increased, especially at the state & local levels. The Marshals Service, Bureau of Prisons (BOP), & Immigration & Naturalization Service (INS) have used private facilities to house selected populations, e.g, aliens. But, in FY 1996 BOP will expand use to low & minimum security offenders.

KEY QUESTIONS : 1) What is the status of corrections privatization at the federal, state, and local levels? 2) What lessons have been learned from the privatized corrections experience, especially regarding contracting, cost containment, accountability, and oversight? 3) As BOP expands its privatization efforts, how is the agency addressing the lessons learned?

TITLE: REVIEW OF THE STATUS OF INS' AND EOIR'S INSTITUTIONAL HEARING PROGRAM FOR CRIMINAL ALIENS (183598)

BACKGROUND : INS has a poor record of removing deportable aliens, including convicted felons. Under the Institutional Hearing Program (IHP), proceedings are held in prisons, to facilitate alien deportation upon release. INS and the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) have cooperated to enhance the IHP in selected locations. INS expects to greatly increase deportations.

KEY QUESTIONS : 1. What are the IHP's specific objectives? 2. In implementing the IHP, how does INS target, track, & process criminal aliens for deportation? 3. What factors facilitate & impede INS' ability to deport criminals through the IHP? 4. What data are available for measuring the performance of the IHP? 5. How will INS & EOIR handle anticipated IHP workload increases?

TITLE: REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE U.S. COURTS (AOUSC) OVERSIGHT OF THE FEDERAL COURTS (188621)

BACKGROUND : The Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AOUSC) is resp. for providing admin. srvcs. and oversight for all fed. courts except the Supreme Court and certain specialty courts. AOUSC, supervised by the Judicial Conference of the U.S., supports the Conf.'s various committees. Requestors want a general review of AOUSC's efficiency and effectiveness.

KEY QUESTIONS : (1) How effectively does the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AOUSC) provide oversight of the courts' administrative operations? (2) How effectively does the judiciary identify and promote efficiencies in court operations?

Administration of Justice

ADJUDICATION & CORRECTIONS

TITLE: THE IMPACT OF AN INCREASED FEDERAL SUPERVISED RELEASE POPULATION ON THE WORKLOAD AND PROGRAM RESOURCES OF THE FEDERAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM (188622)

BACKGROUND : Supervised release is a sentence of 1-5 years served in the community after the prison term is completed. The number of supervised releases is increasing; the total is projected to rise from 1,673 in FY '89 to 49,200 in '96 with a resulting impact on the workload & resources of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AOUSC) & the Department of Justice (DOJ).

KEY QUESTIONS : (1) What is the projected supervised release population in FY 1995-98? (2) What studies, plans, if any, do the affected agencies have to assess, document, obtain, develop the resources needed to meet projected workload? (3) What sanctions are available for offenders whose supervision is revoked?

TITLE: INFORMATION ON ANY DUPLICATION IN PROGRAMS OF FEDERAL JUDICIAL CENTER AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF U.S. COURTS; COSTS OF JUDICIAL CONFERENCE AND CIRCUIT COUNCIL MEETINGS; STATUS OF BIAS TASK FORCE (188623)

BACKGROUND : The requestor is interested in whether the Federal Judicial Center (FJC) and the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AOUSC) provide duplicative support to judges and other judiciary staff; the cost of Judicial Conference, Circuit Conference, and Circuit Council meetings; and the costs and methodological soundness of the circuit gender and racial bias studies.

KEY QUESTIONS : (1) What FJC, AOUSC programs, if any, are duplicated or offer substantially the same services? (2) Could money be saved by eliminating any duplication? (3) What is the annual cost of Judicial Conference Committee, Circuit Conference, and Circuit Council meetings? (4) How much has been spent on circuit bias task forces? (5) Were the completed studies methodologically sound?

OTHER ISSUE AREA WORK

TITLE: HRA 3: ASSET FORFEITURE PROGRAMS (182017)

KEY QUESTIONS : (1) Provide perspective on Justice's and Treasury's asset forfeiture programs (2) Discuss prior GAO reports and recommendations

OTHER ISSUE AREA WORK

TITLE: INS MANAGEMENT ISSUES (183594)

BACKGROUND : The President's '96 budget asks for \$2.6 billion for INS - a 71% increase since '93. This means INS needs to be well-managed to carry out its mandate. GAO & Natl. Academy of Pub. Admin. identified significant weaknesses in INS management systems. These issues have drawn Congress' interest in recent hearings. More oversight hearings on INS management are planned.

KEY QUESTIONS : (1) What progress has INS made in attaining the management improvement goals set out in its most recent reorganization? (2) In what ways does INS' budget process conform or not conform with its reorganization goals to delegate authority to where the work is performed, and with what results?

TITLE: REVIEW OF HOW THE BORDER PATROL USES ITS AGENTS (183595)

BACKGROUND : Congress plans to fund 5,000 new Border Patrol agents and have INS place them at the border. The Border Patrol has stations in locations removed from the border such as Little Rock, Arkansas and Sacramento, California. Agents at these locations are not principally engaged in traditional Border Patrol activities.

KEY QUESTIONS : (1) Where is the Border Patrol located and the number of agents? (2) What activities do its agents perform at each location?

TITLE: INS BUDGET ISSUES (183601)

KEY QUESTIONS : (1) What is the Immigration and Naturalization Services' (INS) detention capacity and funding level? (2) What is the status of INS' efforts to hire Border Patrol agents? (3) What is the status of INS' procurement of equipment for agents, including vehicles? (4) Who received bonuses at INS and how much did they receive?

OTHER ISSUE AREA WORK

TITLE: HRA 15: REVIEW OF CUSTOMS' IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS REORGANIZATION AND MODERNIZATION EFFORTS (264432)

BACKGROUND : Customs is undergoing a major reorganization. Its transformation process involves (1) organizational change; (2) reinvention of work processes; and (3) cultural conversion. In January 1995 we testified on Customs' progress. The requester asked GAO to continue monitoring Customs' progress and to provide testimony in early 1996.

KEY QUESTIONS : 1. What are Customs' plans and timelines for downsizing its headquarters, streamlining its field structure, and defining its core business processes? 2. What is the status of the downsizing, streamlining, and business process efforts? 3. What impediments to each of these efforts have been encountered?
