

Government Accountability Office (GAO) Reviews and Reports And DoD Office of Security Review

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) is an independent, nonpartisan agency that works for Congress. The head of GAO, the Comptroller General of the United States, is appointed to a 15-year term by the President from a slate of candidates Congress proposes. GAO's mission is to support the Congress in meeting its constitutional responsibilities and to help improve the performance and ensure the accountability of the federal government for the benefit of the American people. The GAO supports congressional oversight by:

- auditing agency operations to determine whether federal funds are being spent efficiently and effectively;
- investigating allegations of illegal and improper activities;
- reporting on how well government programs and policies are meeting their objectives;
- performing policy analyses and outlining options for congressional consideration; and
- issuing legal decisions and opinions, such as bid protest rulings and reports on agency rules.

IAW DoDI 7650.02, Government Accountability Office (GAO) Reviews and Reports, 20 Nov, 2006:

“4.1. The Inspector General of the DoD (IG DoD) shall:

4.1.1. Serve as the DoD central liaison with the Comptroller General on all matters concerning GAO surveys, reviews, reports, and activities, consistent with the responsibilities and authorities established under Reference (c). This includes tasking, monitoring, and facilitating the preparation of responses to GAO reports and GAO requests for security reviews, and reviewing, coordinating, and authorizing the release of DoD responses to GAO reports. This also includes monitoring and facilitating ongoing GAO surveys and reviews within the Department of Defense.”

“4.2. The Heads of DoD Components shall:

4.2.8. Ensure that responses to GAO requests for DoD security review or mandatory declassification review of GAO documents containing DoD information are processed through the Office of Security Review, Washington Headquarters Services, and according to Executive Orders 12958 and 12972, and DoD 5200.1-R (References (i), (j), and (k)).”

In accordance with DoDD 5230.09, DoDI 5230.29, DoDM 5200.01-M, and DoDI 7650.02, OSR works in conjunction with the Primary Action Officers (PAO), who represent the office(s) evaluated, and crafts the DoD formal response. Once completed, the GAO Report and DoD response are forwarded to OSR for final security review following initial reviews by appropriate DoD subject matter experts. When finished, the DoD classification determination/final security review outcome is sent by OSR to the GAO through the PAO to the DoD Inspector General's office.