

OIG's Investigative Response to Sexual Assault in Antarctica

Inspector General Allison Lerner

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What is OIG Proposing to Do?

- ▶ OIG will investigate criminal violations covered under Special Maritime and Territorial Jurisdiction (SMTJ), which include aggravated sexual abuse, sexual abuse, abusive sexual contact, and stalking
 - ▶ The SMTJ includes any place outside of the jurisdiction of any nation — e.g., Antarctica — when the offense is committed by or against a U.S. national
- ▶ OIG will coordinate its investigative activity with:
 - ▶ Prosecutors from the Department of Justice and the FBI
 - ▶ The Special Deputy US Marshal
 - ▶ Other federal law enforcement partners (for example, DoD)
- ▶ OIG is working toward having an on-site presence during the summer, but does not anticipate that happening this year
- ▶ OIG will take declined cases to a logical, defensible administrative conclusion
- ▶ OIG will engage in outreach with USAP participants

OIG's Actions to Date

- ▶ Combined audit/investigative team visited McMurdo in February 2023
- ▶ OIG released white paper: *Law Enforcement Perspectives on Sexual Assault and Stalking Issues Pertaining to the United States Antarctic Program* (March 2023)
- ▶ OIG special agents began responding to concerns from individuals in Antarctica (beginning of July 2023)
- ▶ OIG identified and recruited an expert in investigating sexual assault (onboarding in progress), to help us succeed in this new area
- ▶ OIG special agents and investigative attorneys attended 3 days of training in investigating sexual assaults (July-August 2023)
- ▶ OIG and OPP launched Tiger Team focused on OIG's new mission in Antarctica (August 2023)
- ▶ OIG special agents, investigative attorneys, and auditors will take training in conducting victim-centered, trauma-informed interviews (scheduled for October 2023)