Since many of the DHS organizational components have established computer systems to access, process, and store classified national security information, we performed an audit of DHS’ national security systems. The overall objective of the audit was to determine whether DHS and its organizational components have implemented adequate security to protect their national security systems. We performed our work at the program and organizational component levels. We reviewed national security systems policies and procedures and conducted vulnerability assessments and security control reviews for a sample of national security systems at six DHS organizational components.

Our audit was conducted between April 2004 and August 2004. We recommended that DHS take certain steps to: (1) provide adequate security for the information and information systems that support its classified operations and assets; and (2) ensure the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of vital classified information. DHS concurred with our recommendations. We are posting only this summary on the OIG website because the report contains classified information and should not, consequently, be widely disseminated.