



Office of Inspector General

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

Executive Summary, 2025-MO-B-010, August 20, 2025

The Board's Law Enforcement Unit Can Clarify Its Authority and Document Processes for Its Physical Security Program

Findings

The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System's physical security program, while generally effective, can be strengthened in multiple foundational respects.

Specifically, the Board's Law Enforcement Unit (LEU) executes the physical security program without formally delegated decisionmaking authority and without established physical security standards. The lack of these foundational components complicates the resolution of physical security concerns, particularly when the LEU coordinates with the Board's Facility Services section on design, construction, or renovation matters. The Board also lacks a formal process for addressing identified security risks and documenting risk mitigation decisions. Further, the Board does not have clear processes for managing third-party access cards typically provided to staff assigned to leased workspaces. Without a process to collect and deactivate these access cards from employees and contractors who leave the agency, the Board faces potential building access vulnerabilities that should be addressed.

Finally, we determined that the LEU's Technical Security Bureau does not have policies and procedures or performance objectives that guide most of its physical security functions and responsibilities. The lack of these foundational materials impedes the Board's ability to assess and monitor program effectiveness.

Recommendations

Our report contains six recommendations designed to enhance aspects of the Board's physical security program, including clarifying the LEU's authority and documenting processes. In its response to our draft report, the Board concurs with our recommendations and outlines actions to address each recommendation. We will follow up to ensure that the recommendations are fully addressed.

Purpose

We initiated this evaluation in June 2024 to assess whether the Board has an effective oversight structure to manage its physical security program and whether selected security measures in Board spaces are effective.

Background

The LEU provides a safe and secure environment for Board staff and visitors at each of the Board's six properties by protecting infrastructure and critical facilities, mitigating or eliminating security risks, and responding to incidents. The LEU's Technical Security Bureau manages the technical components of the Board's physical security program, including access controls and surveillance equipment, among other duties.