



U.S. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

441 G St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20548

April 5, 2016

The Honorable Ashton B. Carter
The Secretary of Defense

Attention: Mr. Steven A. Stebbins, Chief of Staff
c/o Office of the Inspector General
4800 Mark Center Drive, Ste 17F18
Alexandria, VA 22350-1500

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to inform you of a new U.S. Government Accountability Office engagement on the Federal Government's Use of Personal Services Contracts—code **100687**. The enclosure provides information on the engagement. If we determine it is necessary to visit locations other than those specified in the enclosure, we will advise you.

We would appreciate your notifying the appropriate officials of this work. The next step will be to set up an entrance conference. At that meeting, we will request that your agency identify a point of contact for this engagement.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathleen A. Berrick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cathleen A. Berrick
Managing Director
Defense Capabilities and Management

Enclosure

ENCLOSURE

Information on New Engagement

Engagement subject: Federal Government's Use of Personal Services Contracts

Engagement code: 100687

Source for the work: GAO is beginning this work pursuant to its authority under 31 U.S.C. 717 after receiving a request from Ranking Member Claire McCaskill of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the United States Senate.

Issue(s) under review/Objective(s)/Key question(s):

1. To what extent have agencies identified personal services contracts awarded between fiscal years 2011 and 2015 to support agency missions?
2. What policies do selected agencies have in place to manage the use and oversight of personal services contracts?
3. What are the key attributes of a sample of personal services contracts?

Agencies and anticipated locations (HQ and field) to be notified:

We plan to conduct work at offices within the

- Office of the Secretary of Defense Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Defense and offices such as Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy;
- The Military Services;
- The Defense Acquisition University.
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Other departments/agencies to be contacted: This is a multiagency effort. We plan to conduct work with the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Federal Procurement Policy, and the United States Agency for International Development.

Estimated start date for the work: Immediately

Time frame for holding the entrance conference: Immediately

GAO Team(s) performing the engagement: Acquisition and Sourcing Management

GAO contacts:

William T. Woods, Director, (202) 512-8214 woodsw@gao.gov

Penny Berrier, Assistant Director, (617) 788-0579 berrierp@gao.gov

Carol Mebane, Analyst-in-Charge, (256) 922-7509 mebanec@gao.gov