GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

Office of the Inspector General's Observations at the Metropolitan Police Department's Evidence Control Branch

CHARLES J. WILLOUGHBY
INSPECTOR GENERAL

OIG NO. 07-1-21(a) January 4, 20

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Inspector General

Inspector General

January 4, 2008

Cathy A. Lanier
Chief of Police
D.C. Metropolitan Police Department
300 Indiana Avenue N.W., Room 5080
Washington, D.C. 20001

Robin-Eve Jasper
Interim Director
Office of Property Management
441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 1100
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Chief Lanier and Ms. Jasper:

Enclosed is our final audit report summarizing the results of the Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) Observations at the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Evidence Control Branch. This audit is part of our audit of the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Management of Seized and Confiscated Property/Evidence.

On October 31, 2007, we issued a Management Alert Report (MAR 08-A-01) containing four recommendations; two to the MPD and two to the Office of Property Management (OPM) for necessary actions to correct the described deficiencies. Both OPM and MPD responded favorably to the recommendations and provided actions underway to address the conditions cited in the report. OPM's and MPD's responses are attached in their entirety at Exhibits B through D, respectively.

If you have questions, please contact William J. DiVello, Assistant Inspector General for Audits, at (202) 727-2540.

Sincerely,

Charles J. Willoughby
Inspector General

Enclosure

CJW/lw

cc: See Distribution List

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Office of the Inspector General's Observations at the Metropolitan Police Department's Evidence Control Branch

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EXECUTIVE DIGEST

OVERVIEW

Every year, the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) handles over 100,000 recovered or seized property cases. The Evidence Control Branch (ECB) processes recovered and seized property. The ECB has two primary goals: (1) to secure, catalog, and store property in a safe manner; and (2) to return all property to its rightful owners as quickly and efficiently as possible.

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) is currently conducting an audit of the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Management of Seized and Confiscated Property/Evidence. The audit is being conducted under OIG Project No. 07-1-21FA and focuses primarily on ECB operations.

The initial objectives of the ongoing audit are to: (1) evaluate the adequacy of MPD's internal controls for the intake and custody of seized assets; (2) determine whether law enforcement personnel followed applicable laws and procedures related to the handling and disposal of evidence, accountability for evidence, and the sale of seized and forfeited property; and (3) evaluate the internal controls over the proceeds generated from the sale of such property. This audit report focuses on the first objective cited above. We previously published the results from this audit in a Management Alert Report (MAR 08-A-02), issued on October 31, 2007.

CONCLUSIONS

The ECB facility is in need of vital repairs. Our observation of the facility disclosed problems such as an inadequate heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system, a poor electrical system, leaky pipes and roof, severe overcrowding in storage areas, and poor physical security. In addition, the ECB facility does not meet all required health and safety code regulations. These facility-related conditions increase the risk of theft, misuse, or loss of evidence, which may compromise the District's ability to successfully prosecute criminal cases, thereby hindering the ECB's mission. Further, these conditions pose a hazardous working environment for ECB personnel. We attribute the conditions noted in this report, in part, to MPD's and the Office of Property Management's (OPM) long term failure to adequately secure the ECB facility or acquire a suitable alternate facility.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

We directed two recommendations to the Director of OPM and two recommendations to the Chief, MPD, which focused on actions needed to correct identified deficiencies at the Evidence Control Branch. Specifically, the OIG recommended that OPM and MPD immediately conduct an inspection of the ECB facility to assess which conditions

EXECUTIVE DIGEST

can be resolved immediately and develop a plan to address current and future facility needs of the ECB. A summary of the potential benefits resulting from the audit is included at Exhibit A.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE AND OIG COMMENTS

OPM and MPD agreed with the conditions cited in the report. Short-term actions have been taken in response to our findings and recommendations, which include improvements to address lighting and ventilation problems. Also, in response to our concerns about security and overcrowding at the ECB, MPD officials stated that they have employed a SWAT team at the warehouse and relocated the high-risk items to an undisclosed location.

In regard to the more pressing issue of the current rental arrangement and need for a new facility, OPM entered into an 18-month lease on behalf of MPD, thus ending the month-to-month period of occupancy. Further, OPM is proceeding with an expedited program to build a new ECB on District-owned land. Possible locations have already been identified and an analysis of sites and program requirements is underway.

OPM's and MPD's responses are attached in their entirety at Exhibits B, C, and D.

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

The ECB has primary responsibility for the management, protection, and disposition of evidence and property in its custody. ECB collects into custody all evidence seized/confiscated by MPD[1] and tangible abandoned and recovered property in the District. A critical function of ECB is to preserve the integrity of all evidence in its custody to ensure that federal and District prosecutions are not compromised or weakened by challenges made by defense attorneys about the existence, completeness, or handling of evidence, or the chain of custody.

The ECB has been housed in an aging, leased facility since 1974. Originally built in 1962 as a furniture warehouse, the ECB facility was never designed to secure and preserve evidence and property, such as biological materials, drugs, firearms, and other evidence taken into custody by law enforcement agencies. According to documents obtained from OPM, conditions at the facility have been less than optimal for maintaining and securing property/evidence since the onset of the lease agreement in 1974.

Since the lease agreement expired in 1994 (13 years ago), the District has been leasing the space on a month-to-month basis from Curtis Properties, Inc. at an annual cost of $264,000. We asked OPM and MPD officials why the ECB has remained at the facility on a month-to-month basis for the past 13 years, but OPM could not provide a justifiable reason. We received varying responses from MPD officials. One MPD official stated that the ECB facility has always been a low priority. Another official cited a lack of funds to move to another leased or acquired facility.

MPD's facility manager attributed MPD and OPM's failure to secure a new ECB facility to the lack of warehouse space in the District. Additionally, neither OPM nor MPD could provide documentation to show that MPD notified OPM of the conditions at the ECB facility or submitted requests to OPM to secure a new facility. There was also no evidence that OPM took action to identify another facility for MPD after the lease expired in 1994.

OBJECTIVES, SCOPE, AND METHODOLOGY

The initial objectives of the ongoing audit are to: (1) evaluate the adequacy of MPD's internal controls for the intake and custody of seized assets; (2) determine whether law enforcement personnel followed applicable laws and procedures related to the handling and disposal of evidence, accountability for evidence, and the sale of seized and forfeited property; and (3) evaluate the internal controls over the proceeds generated from the sale of such property. This audit report focuses on the first objective cited above.

[1] ECB also receives evidence seized and recovered by other law enforcement agencies in the District of Columbia, such as the U.S. Park Police and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA).

FINDING AND RECOMMENDATIONS

FINDING: Deteriorating and Hazardous Conditions Noted at the Evidence Control Branch Facility

SYNOPSIS

The ECB facility is in need of vital repairs. Our observation of the facility disclosed problems such as an inadequate heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system, a poor electrical system, leaky pipes and roof, severe overcrowding in storage areas, and poor physical security. In addition, the ECB facility does not meet all required health and safety code regulations. These facility-related conditions increase the risk of theft, misuse, or loss of evidence, which may compromise the District's ability to successfully prosecute criminal cases, thereby hindering the ECB's mission. Further, these conditions pose a hazardous working environment for ECB personnel.

DISCUSSION

1. **Inadequate HVAC System.**

The ECB has no system to control temperature and humidity levels in the evidence warehouse (warehouse). Additionally, the warehouse lacks an adequate ventilation system.[2] The warehouse consists of three floors filled to capacity with evidence and recovered and abandoned property. The lack of an adequate HVAC system, combined with biological materials and chemicals, creates a dangerous environment for ECB personnel.

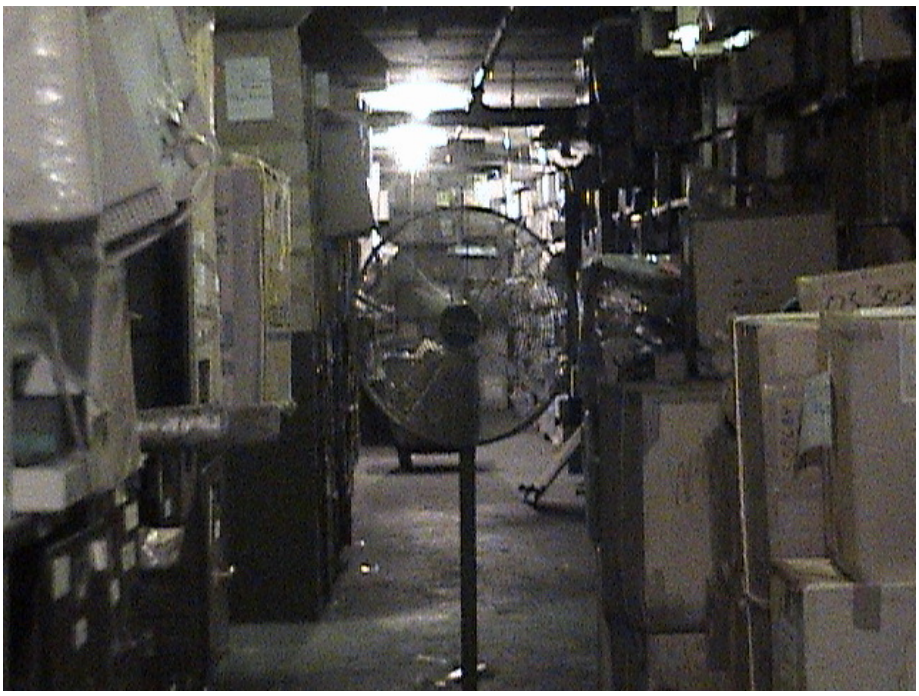
During the summer months, temperatures and humidity reach dangerous levels throughout the warehouse. ECB management is forced to close off access to the warehouse periodically throughout the summer because of the poor air quality and smoldering heat. During the winter months, the ECB facility experiences the opposite effect, freezing temperatures.

In order to cope with the extreme, high temperatures in the summer months and to circulate air in the warehouse, ECB personnel use a few portable fans. However, we found that the fans do not adequately improve the inside temperature or humidity levels. Figure I on the next page shows a portable fan in use at the ECB warehouse.

[2] A ventilation system changes or replaces air in a space to remove moisture, odors, smoke, heat, dust, and airborne bacteria. Ventilation includes both the exchange of air to/from the outside as well as circulation of air within the building.

FINDING AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Figure I. Portable Fan Used to Circulate Air in Warehouse



MPD installed mechanical exhaust fans approximately 4 years ago to improve air circulation in the warehouse; however, we found them to be inoperable. ECB personnel have installed window air conditioning units in the office areas to keep temperatures down therein.

We noted that the makeshift drug vault[3] constructed by ECB personnel does have an air conditioning system that controls the temperature and humidity levels, but lacks an adequate ventilation system. The small exhaust fan currently in place does not sufficiently evacuate fumes emanating from the drugs kept in the vault. During our tour of the warehouse, we detected fumes from the drugs outside the vault. We also observed an officer enter and exit the drug vault. When the officer exited the vault, she indicated that she had a headache due to the fumes. These conditions expose ECB personnel to health hazards and also increase the District's liability for work related injuries. High temperatures and humidity may also destabilize the chemistry of the drugs and other chemical-based evidence stored in the warehouse.

[3]The vault is constructed out of plywood.

FINDING AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Biological materials (i.e., blood, semen, body fluids, etc.) in ECB's custody should be stored in a climate-controlled and moisture-free environment to properly preserve evidence. However, we found that biological materials stored in the warehouse are subject to extreme temperatures and humidity levels.

Throughout the warehouse, we observed liquid substances seeping from beneath boxes containing evidence. We did not attempt to identify the substances, but concluded that their presence created an unsanitary and hazardous work environment for ECB personnel because of the risk of contamination from contact with the substances, and/or airborne pathogens, as well as the risk that employees could slip and fall on the wet floors. This condition may also be indicative of the improper storage of liquid evidence. Figure II shows a liquid substance seeping from beneath a box of evidence.

Figure II. Liquid Substance Seeping Out of a Box of Evidence

FINDING AND RECOMMENDATIONS

2. **Poor Electrical System.**

The ECB facility's 45-year-old mechanical and electrical systems are in need of replacement to avoid potentially hazardous conditions. A recent inspection by Office of Risk Management occupational safety and health specialists found holes in the electrical boxes and covers throughout the warehouse. The specialists cited these conditions as hazards that could result in shock, fire, or electrocution.

We observed several light fixtures that were inoperable, causing severe dark patches throughout the warehouse. Insufficient lighting, cluttered aisles, and walkways covered with liquid substances create a hazardous environment for ECB personnel. Figure III shows a section of the warehouse in darkness because of inoperable light fixtures.

Figure III. Poor Lighting

3. **Leaky Pipes and Roof.**

During our tour of the warehouse, we found evidence of leaking pipes and water seeping through the roof. Water leaks caused by deteriorated plumbing and roofing elements, along with humidity and temperature problems, pose threats of damage to and contamination or loss of evidence stored at the facility. Figure IV shows water stains on the wall and evidence of leaking pipes.

FINDING AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Figure IV. Leaky Pipes and Water Damage to Walls

Figure V shows boxes of evidence elevated to avoid damage from water leaks and a box of evidence damaged by water.

Figure V. Box of Evidence Damaged by Water

FINDING AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4. **Severe Overcrowding.**

During our inspection of the evidence warehouse, we observed evidence stored from the floor to the ceiling and boxes of evidence stacked on top of one another. Although this method allows the ECB to maximize available space, the weight from the top boxes can damage the seal on the bottom boxes and compromise the integrity of the evidence, and the boxes could fall over and injure staff. Additionally, stacking boxes from the floor to the ceiling can make retrieval and accounting for evidence more cumbersome and time-consuming.

There is insufficient space in the ECB facility to accommodate current and future storage requirements. The D.C. Code requires that evidence involved in open homicide investigations be retained for 65 years.[4] Additionally, evidence can remain in ECB's custody for significant amounts of time for several other reasons. For example, lengthy judicial processes, including appeals and civil litigation, may require retaining evidence for an extended period of time. Additionally, appropriate paperwork may not have been processed to release evidence or property in cases in which all judicial proceedings have come to an end, or the evidence is related to a criminal investigation that remains unsolved and the crime that was committed has no applicable statute of limitations. Figure VI shows drug evidence packed tightly from the floor to the ceiling.

Figure VI. Severe Overcrowding in Drug Vault

[4] D.C. Code § 5-113.32(a) (LEXIS through D.C. Law 17-21, effective Sept. 20, 2007) states: "In open homicide investigations, law enforcement agencies shall retain case jackets, crime scene examination case files, and any evidence collected during the course of the investigation for 65 years from the date the crime is first reported to the law enforcement agency."

FINDING AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Due to the lack of storage space, ECB personnel are forced to store evidence in the loading dock area, which is easily accessible to the public. Because of the frequent traffic within the loading dock area, the roll-up doors are often up, subjecting evidence to theft. Figure VII shows evidence stored in the loading dock area while the doors are up.

Figure VII. Evidence Stored in Loading Dock Area Subject to Theft

5. **Poor Physical Security.**

The ECB facility lacks physical safeguards to adequately secure evidence. At the ECB facility, we observed the location and condition of evidence vaults and other designated secure areas. We also observed several safeguards, including video surveillance, motion sensors, and an alarm system. However, these safeguards are limited to detecting a security breach and do little to prevent unauthorized removal and theft of property in ECB custody.

The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) Standards for Law Enforcement Agencies, Standard 84.1.2 states: "All in-custody and evidentiary property is stored within designated, secure areas with access limited to authorized personnel." The supporting commentary for Standard 84.1.2 states:

FINDING AND RECOMMENDATIONS

> Some items of in-custody property, by their very nature, require extra protection, security, and handling precautions. Items such as money, precious metals, jewelry, firearms, and drugs are some that should be considered…. When assessing the degree of security to provide, the agency should weigh the importance of the property it is placing in these areas and the consequences if the property is stolen, damaged, or contaminated while in-custody.

The makeshift drug vault and cages that surround stored firearms are not sufficient to secure "high risk" evidence. There is an inherent risk of theft, misuse, and loss of drugs and firearms because such evidence typically has a market or street value.[5]

6. **Inoperable Sprinkler System**

Further, the ECB facility lacks a working sprinkler system, which is vital to the preservation of evidence and safety of ECB personnel in the event of a fire. Fire damage is usually irreparable; however, a more important consideration is the safety and lives of ECB personnel. According to documents obtained from OPM, the ECB facility has lacked an operable sprinkler system since 1989.

Conclusion

The conditions at the ECB facility are not limited to the findings described in this report, as there are other numerous facility-related problems and safety and health concerns that should be addressed. This report has focused on the most serious conditions that may compromise ECB's primary responsibility to secure and preserve evidence and property in its custody, as well as on those conditions that threaten the safety and health of ECB personnel. Accordingly, we recommend that OPM and MPD immediately conduct an inspection of the ECB facility to assess which conditions can be resolved expeditiously and to develop a plan to address the current and future facility needs of the ECB. We also recommend that MPD submit to OPM the proper documents for requesting a new facility and to place 24-hour armed guard(s) at the ECB facility.

RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend that the Director, OPM:

1. Inspect the ECB facility to determine what measures can be taken in the short term to alleviate:

    a. heating and ventilation problems,

[5] The price that a drug will sell for "on the street" or from most drug dealers.

FINDING AND RECOMMENDATIONS

b. poor lighting and any dangerous electrical conditions,
c. poor sanitary conditions from seeping biological evidence,
d. leaking roof and pipes and water seepage, and
e. inoperable water sprinkler system.

OPM RESPONSE (Recommendation 1)

OPM concurred with the recommendation stating that they have already taken steps to address these and other issues. Specifically, actions have been taken to improve the lighting and ventilation throughout the warehouse. Additionally, OPM is looking at the cost-benefit of upgrading the electrical system, and possible strategies for "hardening" the narcotics vault.

OIG COMMENT

OPM's corrective actions are responsive and meet the intent of the recommendation.

2. Work in partnership with MPD to develop a plan to address the current and future facility needs of the ECB.

OPM RESPONSE (Recommendation 2)

OPM stated that relative to the facility itself, OPM ended recently the long standing month-to-month rental of the warehouse, and has signed a lease for 18 months. For the permanent solution, OPM stated that they have started initial planning toward building a new warehouse on District-owned land to be completed within the next 18 - 24 months.

OIG COMMENT

OPM's corrective actions are responsive and meet the intent of the recommendation.

We recommended that the Chief of Police, MPD:

3. Complete and submit to OPM a space request form outlining the ECB's facility needs.

MPD RESPONSE (Recommendation 3)

In a meeting with the Chief of Police on December 9, 2007, the Chief described actions which have been taken since September of 2007 to address many of the conditions cited in our report and many recommendations contained in a study conducted by Evidence Control Systems, Inc., a subject-matter expert hired to evaluate MPD's Evidence Control

FINDING AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Branch Operations. Further, the Chief reiterated plans for a move to a new warehouse facility and the coordination with OPM and the Office of the City Administrator to identify alternative warehouse space and permanently move and modernize MPD's ECB facility.

OIG COMMENT

MPD's corrective actions are responsive and meet the intent of the recommendation. It is our hope that the momentum shown by the Chief during the course of our review continues and that the stated goals are achieved.

4. Pending a move to a more secure facility, place 24-hour armed guard(s) at the ECB facility.

MPD RESPONSE (Recommendation 4)

MPD agreed with this recommendation. At a meeting on December 9, 2007, the Chief stated that a SWAT team has been deployed at the warehouse and provides 24-hour security. Additionally, MPD cited that the Evidence Control Branch Facility currently has a 24-hour monitoring alarm system. The monitoring system notifies the 911 center directly of any motion, fire, door, window, area, and physical alarms. Additionally, the building is occupied by sworn MPD officers from 6:30am to 6:00pm on weekdays. A beat officer is assigned to the area and provides special attention to the facility daily until 9:30pm. Further, District officers patrol the area consistently with instruction to pay special attention to the warehouse. Finally, the warehouse has 17 cameras, which record vital areas of the warehouse, and additional security measures have been added to the ECB facility to protect the roof area.

OIG COMMENT

MPD's corrective actions are responsive and meet the intent of the recommendation.

EXHIBIT A: SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL BENEFITS RESULTING FROM AUDIT

Recommendation	Description of Benefit	Amount and Type of Benefit	Status[6]
1	Economy and Efficiency. Provides assurance that OPM is aware of the conditions of the ECB facility so that measures can be taken in the short term to alleviate cited conditions.	Non Monetary	Closed
2	Economy and Efficiency. Provides a partnership between OPM and MPD to develop a plan to address the current and future facility needs of the ECB.	Non Monetary	Closed
3	Economy and Efficiency. Establishes a written document presented to OPM that outlines MPD's space request relating to the ECB facility.	Non Monetary	Closed
4	Economy and Efficiency. Provides a temporary solution to security issues surrounding the ECB facility.	Non Monetary	Closed

[6] This column provides the status of a recommendation as of the report date. For final reports, "**Open**" means Management and the OIG agree on the action to be taken, but action is not complete. "**Closed**" means management has advised that the action necessary to correct the condition is complete. "**Unresolved**" means that management has neither agreed to take the recommended action nor proposed satisfactory alternative actions to correct the condition.

EXHIBIT B: OFFICE OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO MANAGEMENT ALERT REPORT

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Office of the Director

4 December 2007

Charles J. Willoughby, Esq.
Inspector General
Government of the District of Columbia
717 14th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Re. Management Alert Report on Deteriorating and Hazardous Conditions Noted at the Evidence Control Branch Facility (MAR No.08-A-01)

Dear Inspector General Willoughby:

This is in response to the Management Alert Report (Report) identified above, describing a variety of known deficiencies at the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Evidence Control Branch (ECB) Facility at Shannon Place, SE. For some time now, MPD and the Office of Property Management (OPM) have been working aggressively to identify appropriate short-and long-term responses. The comments below discuss OPM issues in the Report, **supplementing** those already provided in Chief Cathy Lanier's Memorandum of 20 November 2007.

Month-to-Month Lease – OPM has entered into a lease on behalf of MPD, thus ending the month-to-month period of occupancy. Because conditions at the facility are poor and it is beyond its useful life, we have negotiated a short-term lease (18 months with a possible renewal for an additional 18 months). This is a stop-gap measure intended to fill the planning and construction period for a permanent solution in the form of a new, state-of-the-art evidence facility (please see discussion below).

No penalty rent was paid during the month-to-month occupancy (during which period the rent remained at the original lease rate of approximately $2.00 per foot – well below market rate).

New Evidence Warehouse – As we recognize, the permanent answer to the problems at ECB is to build a replacement facility. We are proceeding with an expedited program to build a new ECB on District-owned land. Possible locations have been identified and analyses of sites and program requirements are underway. We expect a new facility will be complete in approximately 18-24 months.

441 4th Street, NW, Suite 1100S, Washington, DC 20001 • Telephone (202) 724-4100 • Fax (202) 727-7283

EXHIBIT B: OFFICE OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT RESPONSE TO MANAGEMENT ALERT REPORT

Charles J. Willoughby, Esq.
Page 2

In addition, to construction of a new replacement facility for Shannon Place ECB, OPM and MPD are working together to address as many conditions issues as can reasonably be addressed during the interim period. For example, we are looking at the cost benefit of upgrading the electrical system, improvements to ventilation for the narcotics vault, and possible strategies for "hardening" the narcotics vault.

Furthermore, OPM is assisting MPD as it considers a short-term solution to alleviate over-crowding. To that end, MPD would relocate its weapons storage and cash/valuables vault to a newer more secure site on the St. Elizabeths East Campus. MPD is requisitioning new weapon containers, specialized storage containers and shelving, and has received Police Association support for procurement and installation of new modular vault units to be installed at the St. Elizabeths site. The removal of weapons, cash and valuables addresses points raised in the Report. Finally, we understand from MPD that it has increased security at Shannon Place.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. In addition, I look forward to a follow-up meeting to discuss how the comments of OPM and MPD will be included in your final report.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lars Etzkorn
Director

EXHIBIT C: METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE TO MANAGEMENT ALERT REPORT – NOVEMBER 20, 2007

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Charles J. Willoughby
Inspector General

FROM: Cathy Lanier
Chief of Police
Executive Office, Chief of Police

DATE: November 20, 2007

SUBJECT: Response Regarding Deteriorating and Hazardous Conditions at the Metropolitan Police Department Evidence Control Branch

Background

Representatives from your office visited the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Evidence Control Branch (ECB) located at 2250 Shannon Place, SE, Washington, D.C. As a result of the visit, On October 31, 2007, your office generated a report noting hazardous and deteriorating conditions at the ECB warehouse. The report made recommendations to alleviate the following conditions:

Condition

1. Heating and ventilation problems

Response

a. Metropolitan Police Department agrees that the Evidence Control Warehouse lacks a HVAC system. The permanent solution to resolve this issue is to build a new state of the art evidence warehouse to include the standard environmental controls adequate to further the preservation of all evidence and DNA materials.

b. As a potential temporary solution; the Evidence Control Branch has submitted request to OPM to repair the ventilation fans (in-take & ex-take) that were installed several years ago and provide routine preventative maintenance on each fan. These fans have provided a significant reduction of heat in the facility.

c. As it relates to the ventilation in the narcotics vault; there's a HVAC system with an exhaust fan installed in the conduits. The system is

P.O. Box 1606, Washington, D.C. 20013-1606

EXHIBIT C: METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE TO MANAGEMENT ALERT REPORT – NOVEMBER 20, 2007

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in need of maintenance. Routine preventive maintenance should be competed on this unit biennially.

Condition

2. Poor lighting and any dangerous electrical conditions

Response

a. MPD agrees that the electrical system need to be updated. The Evidence Control Branch has submitted a request to abate the electrical issues to OPM. Light bulbs have been replaced on several occasion, however, due to faulty wiring, bulbs blow out within weeks of being replaced. As of this report, OPM has failed to correct wiring of the lighting system, which would rectify the problem.

Condition

3. Poor sanitary conditions from seeping biological evidence

Response

a. The liquid tar spill shown (Figure II of IG Report); was in place prior to 1992. There is no evidence to suggest that the spill came from any evidence in the warehouse. It is more likely that it came from roof repairs being completed in the warehouse. The Warehouse has a concrete roof which is protected by tar.

Condition

4. Leaking roof, pipes and water seepage

Response

a. Leaky pipes and roof problems have been abated by Curtis Brother's Property. Curtis Brother's Property contracted a roofer to fix the warehouse leak on the third floor.

Condition

5. Inoperable water sprinkler system.

Response

a. As it relates to the inoperable sprinkler system; Curtis Brothers Property confirms the operability of the sprinkler system. The system was tested on November 14, 2007 by Mr. T. Glenn of Curtis

EXHIBIT C: METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE TO MANAGEMENT ALERT REPORT – NOVEMBER 20, 2007

Brother's Property and contractor Mr. T Semones of Patient Fire PRC. Additionally, Net Versant Security monitors the alarm and fire systems and notifies the communications center of a sprinkler activation located at Evidence Control Branch.

Condition

6. Poor Physical Security and Over Crowding of Property Stored in the Warehouse

Response

a. The Evidence Control Branch Facility currently has a 24 hour monitoring alarm system installed. The monitoring system notifies the 911 center directly of any motion, fire, door, window, area and physical alarms. Evidence Control Branch Supervisors are also notified if an alarm is triggered.

b. The building is occupied by sworn MPD officers from 0630 until 1800 hours on weekdays. The Seventh Police District has a business beat officer who is assigned to the area and provides Special Attention to the facility until 2130 hours. Seventh District Officers patrol the area consistently with instruction to pay special attention to the warehouse. The building currently has seventeen cameras, recording vital areas of the warehouse. Additional security measures have been added to the ECB facility to protect the roof area. The facility has never been breached from the outside into the facility since the MPD has occupied the building.

Condition

7. Severe Overcrowding

Response

a. MPD agrees with the report and recommends that a new warehouse and shelving system be utilized. Evidence Control Branch is currently in the process of purging evidence that is no longer needed and creating space to remove items from the floor

As it relates to items pictured in figure VII, these items are auction items and or not evidence items. They are not stored with evidence. The uniform and equipment bays are used for customer convenience. However, uniform and equipment members have been reminded of the policy "all bay doors should be left in the closed position unless a member is actively working in the bay unloading supplies from the street to warehouse."

EXHIBIT D: METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE TO MANAGEMENT ALERT REPORT – DECEMBER 6, 2007

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

December 6, 2007

Charles J. Willoughby
Inspector General
Office of the Inspector General
717 14th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 2005

Dear Mr. Willoughby:

This letter is in response to the Office of Inspector General's (OIG) *Management Alert Report (MAR No. 08-A-01)*. I appreciate this opportunity to comment on the report in advance of its publication.

Before addressing the specific recommendations, I would like to first state that I am currently, and have been, actively working with the Office of Property Management (OPM) and the Office of the City Administrator (OCA) to identify alternate warehouse space and permanently move and modernize our Evidence Control Branch (ECB) facility.

Recommendation:
Complete and submit to OPM a space request from outlining the ECB's facility needs.

Response
I concur with the recommendation. To that end, a Program & Test Fit Approval was prepared to support the relocation of the Property and Evidence Warehouse to the 225 Virginia Avenue site and submitted to OPM on 05/21/2007. Based on this information, MPD has been working closely with OPM and the OCA to identify a long-term solution. At this time, the final details are still being worked out. I would be happy to share the final resolution with your office once it has been reached.

Recommendation:
Pending a move to a more secure facility, place 24-hour armed guard (s) at the ECB

Response
I concur with this recommendation. This additional security requirement has been initiated. In fact, we are going beyond the recommendations and would like to brief you and your staff on our plans and progress. We have taken the recommendations and we have interim, short and long term plans in place to ensure that members working conditions and evidence storage vastly improves.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

P.O. Box 1606, Washington, D.C. 20013-1606

EXHIBIT D: METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT RESPONSE TO MANAGEMENT ALERT REPORT – DECEMBER 6, 2007

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Sincerely,

Cathy L. Lanier
Chief of Police

cc: The Honorable Adrian Fenty, Mayor
Dan Tangherlini, City Administrator
Lars Etzkorn, Director, Office of Property Management