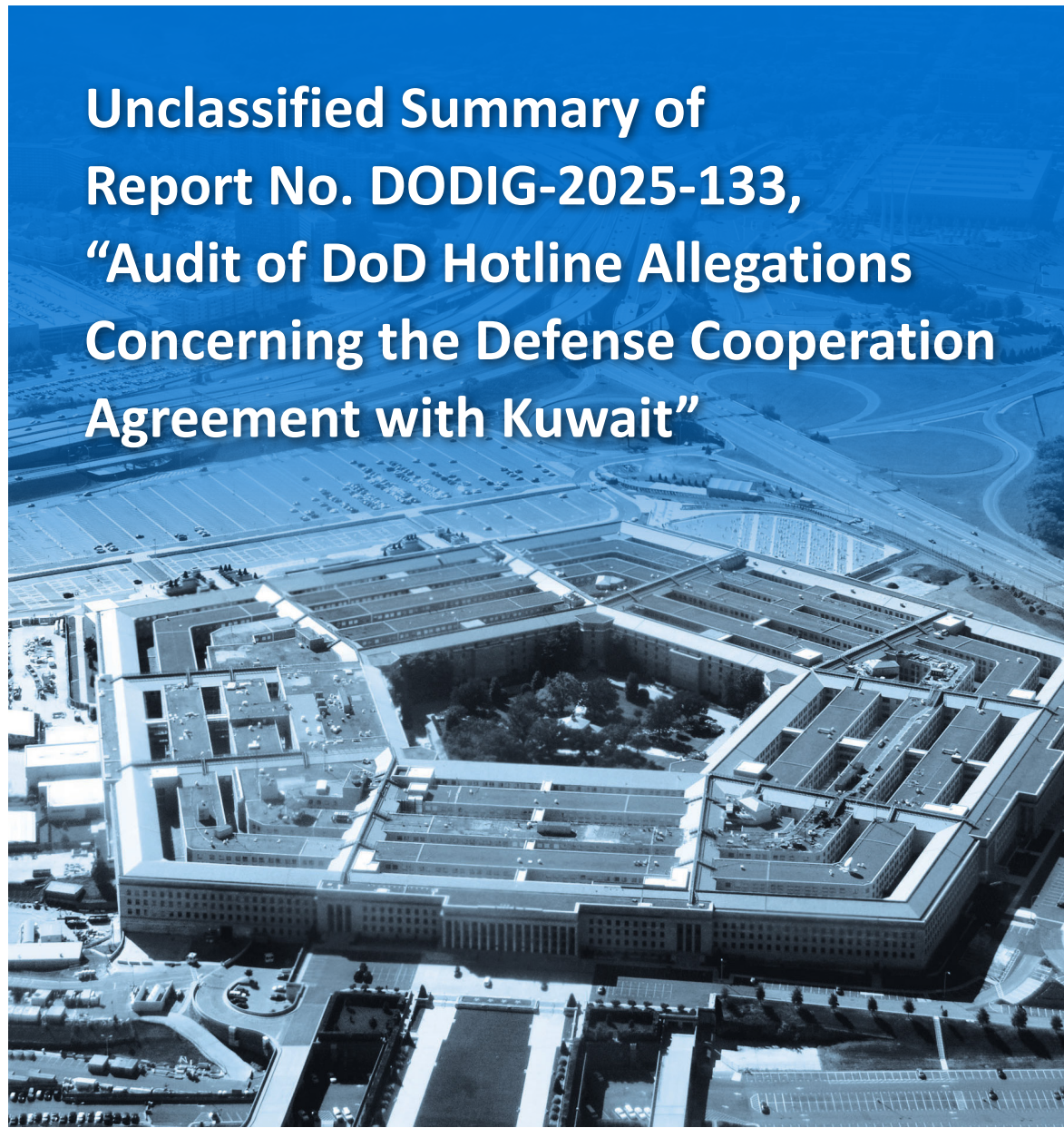




INSPECTOR GENERAL

U.S. Department of Defense

AUGUST 6, 2025



Unclassified Summary of Report No. DODIG-2025-133, “Audit of DoD Hotline Allegations Concerning the Defense Cooperation Agreement with Kuwait”

INDEPENDENCE ★ INTEGRITY ★ EXCELLENCE ★ TRANSPARENCY

On August 6, 2025, the DoD Office of Inspector General issued audit report DODIG-2025-133, “Audit of DoD Hotline Allegations Concerning the Defense Cooperation Agreement with Kuwait.” Due to the extent of the controlled unclassified information and classified information contained in the original audit report, it was not released publicly. In the interest of transparency, we prepared this summary report to release some unclassified information identified during the audit.

Objective

The stated objective of this audit is classified information. However, the objective was related to the execution of a specific aspect of a Defense Cooperation Agreement (DCA) with Kuwait. We announced this audit in response to a DoD Hotline complaint, the specifics of which are Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI).

Background

In 1990, Iraq invaded and occupied Kuwait. In 1991, as part of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, U.S. military forces led a multinational coalition liberating Kuwait from Iraqi forces. Kuwait subsequently served as the major logistics base for U.S. and Coalition operations in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 1991, Kuwait and the U.S. Government signed a DCA to support the DoD's presence in Kuwait, the contents of which are classified SECRET.

Scope and Methodology

We conducted this performance audit from February 2024 through April 2025 in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives.

To answer our audit objective, we reviewed:

- Federal and DoD criteria,
- applicable contracts,
- documentation supporting the execution of the processes under audit, and
- standard operating procedures.

We conducted site visits to U.S. Army Central (USARCENT) at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, and to Area Support Group-Kuwait (ASG-KU) and the Defense Coordination Element-Kuwait (DCE-K) at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. During our site visits, we interviewed personnel from USARCENT, ASG-KU, and DCE-K to gather information including:

- roles and responsibilities and the methods for executing specific processes under the DCA, and
- documentation that is produced as part of the process.

Findings, Recommendations, Management Comments, and Management Actions Taken

We determined the DoD did not fully execute the process under audit in accordance with the DCA. We also partially substantiated the claims made in the DoD Hotline complaint. Furthermore, we identified issues with the security classification markings of the DCA, as well as security classification markings of documentation derived from the DCA. The audit report contained two findings, made nine recommendations, and identified funds that may be put to better use. Due to the extent of the CUI and classified information contained in the findings and recommendations, they were not released publicly. During the audit, officials from U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM), USARCENT, and ASG-KU took actions to address aspects of the findings of our report.

We directed a total of nine recommendations to the USCENTCOM Commander; USARCENT Commander; Director for Information and Acquisition Protection, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence & Security; USARCENT G8 Resource Management Director; and the DCE-K Director.

For one of the recommendations, the responsible management officials agreed with the recommendation, and outlined their completed actions to address the recommendation. We verified that the actions taken fulfilled the intent of our recommendation; therefore, the recommendation is closed.

For three recommendations, the responsible management official agreed with the recommendations and outlined their plans to implement corrective actions to address the deficiencies we identified. Therefore, these recommendations are resolved. We will close these recommendations upon receipt of documentation to support the implementation of the planned corrective actions.

For the two recommendations that identified funds that may be put to better use, the responsible management officials agreed with the recommendations, and outlined their plans to implement corrective actions to address the deficiencies we identified. Therefore, these recommendations are also resolved. However, they disagreed with the amount of funds that could be put to better use. We agreed that the planned corrective actions will impact the amount of realized funds put to better use once implemented. We will close these recommendations upon receipt of documentation to support the implementation of the planned corrective actions.

For three recommendations, the responsible management officials did not address the specifics of our recommendations. Therefore, these recommendations are unresolved. We requested the responsible management official to provide comments to the final report within 30 days. See the table for the status of the nine recommendations.

Table. Recommendation Statuses

Management	Recommendations Unresolved	Recommendations Resolved	Recommendations Closed
U.S. Central Command Commander	None	A.1	None
U.S. Army Central Commander	A.2.c, A.2.d	A.2.a, A.2.b, A.2.e	None
Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security, Director for Information and Acquisition Protection	B.1	None	None
U.S. Army Central G8 Resource Management Director	None	A.3	B.2
Defense Coordination Element-Kuwait Director	None	A.3	B.2

Note: The following categories are used to describe agency management’s comments to individual recommendations.

- **Unresolved** – Management has not agreed to implement the recommendation or has not proposed actions that will address the recommendation.
- **Resolved** – Management agreed to implement the recommendation or has proposed actions that will address the underlying finding that generated the recommendation.
- **Closed** – The DoD OIG verified that the agreed upon corrective actions were implemented.



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