



Risk Assessment of the Department of Justice Charge Card Programs



AUDIT DIVISION

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Background

The U.S. Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General (OIG) completed a risk assessment of the Department of Justice's (Department or DOJ) charge card programs, as required by the Government Charge Card Abuse Prevention Act of 2012 (Charge Card Act), Public Law 112-194. The Charge Card Act, as implemented by Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-123, Appendix B, Revised, *A Risk Management Framework for Government Charge Card Programs* (OMB A-123, Appendix B), requires Inspectors General to conduct periodic assessments of the agency purchase card, convenience check, travel card, and integrated card programs to identify and analyze risks of illegal, improper, or erroneous purchases and payments.

Lost, stolen, or fraudulently used purchase cards present a potential risk to the Department such as fraud, waste, abuse, unapproved payments and improper purchases. Additionally, there is risk associated with individual cardholders who have multiple instances of lost, stolen, or fraudulently used purchase cards, most particularly when these instances occur within a short period of time.

The objective of this risk assessment was to assess the circumstances surrounding purchase card accounts closed from April 1, 2024, through July 31, 2025, with an assigned status description of "Lost/Stolen/Fraud."

Methodology

We obtained purchase card data for the 16-month period of April 1, 2024, to July 31, 2025, and we examined it to identify accounts that were closed during our scope period with an assigned status description of "Lost/Stolen/Fraud." We also reviewed the data to identify cardholders with multiple instances of purchase card accounts closed with an assigned status description of "Lost/Stolen/Fraud" in the scope period.

Results

The Department had 5,683 open purchase card accounts as of August 1, 2025. Our review of the data identified 568 DOJ purchase card accounts closed during our scope period with an assigned status description of "Lost/Stolen/Fraud." Table 1 on the following page provides a component-level summary for the number of such purchase card accounts closed during our scope period.

Our review of the data also identified that the 568 closed accounts were assigned to 505 cardholders. We reviewed the data for these 505 cardholders to identify individuals with multiple instances of accounts closed with an assigned status description of "Lost/Stolen/Fraud." We found 3 cardholders had 3 instances, 57 cardholders had 2 instances, and the remaining 445 cardholders had 1 instance; this data is summarized by component in Table 2 of this report.

Lastly, we reviewed current information for the 60 cardholders shown in Table 2 with multiple instances of "Lost/Stolen/Fraud" account status assignments and identified that 18 of those individuals no longer had a charge card account and 42 had an open account as of September 5, 2025.

We discussed this data with Department officials responsible for the charge card program. We were informed that, to mitigate risks in the program, the Department has required training, and has policies and procedures for overseeing, identifying, reporting, and responding to charge cards that have potentially been lost, stolen, or compromised due to fraud. These controls reduce the potential risks to the Department. Additionally, the Department's monthly reconciliation controls of all purchase cards and the DOJ's charge card processor's fraud monitoring controls, which include temporarily suspending potential compromised card accounts, are likely to reduce the risk of continued improper use. We were informed that many of the account closures

identified in our analysis were initiated by the Department after the Department’s controls detected a need to close the account.

In addition, we discussed with Department charge card program officials the DOJ’s efforts—as part of a governmentwide initiative—to reduce risk from unused or no longer needed purchase cards. To assess this impact on the Department, we reviewed the total purchase card accounts that had an “Open” account on January 1, 2025, and compared that total to similar data for July 31, 2025. We noted a decrease of 25.8 percent in the number of accounts, from 7,654 on January 1, 2025, to 5,683 on July 31, 2025. This information is displayed in Table 3.

OMB A-123, Appendix B also requires the Department to prepare, and for the OIG to review, a semi-annual report to OMB summarizing confirmed violations involving misuse of charge cards and the summary of actions taken in response to such violations. The results of this risk assessment are not inconsistent with the results of our review of the Department’s semiannual reporting to OMB.

Continuous monitoring and management of open accounts is an important tool to manage risk. The closure of unused and unneeded accounts reduces the Department’s risk.

We encourage the Department to continue exercising its controls over government charge cards and to utilize this risk assessment in its efforts to continually improve its monitoring controls. We will include the information and results from this risk assessment into our continuous analysis and future assessments of charge card activity to evaluate and analyze the data for anomalies and risks that could necessitate more in-depth inquiry or an audit in the future.

We provided a draft of our results to the Department; the Department declined to provide a formal response.

Table 1

Component-Level Summary of Purchase Card Accounts Closed with “Lost/Stolen/Fraud” Status Description

April 1, 2024, through July 31, 2025

Component ^a	Number of Accounts Closed with the “Lost/Stolen/Fraud” Status Description ^b
BOP	281
FBI	112
USMS	45
EOIR	43
DEA	38
USAO	13
FPI	10
USTP	10
JMD	4
OJP	4
ENRD	3
OIG	2
ATF	1
ATR	1
CIV	1
Total	568

^a See Appendix 1 for a list of component acronyms used in DOJ’s charge card programs.

^b Represents the number of purchase card accounts closed with an assigned status description of “Lost/Stolen/Fraud” from April 1, 2024, to July 31, 2025.

Source: DOJ OIG analysis of data from DOJ’s charge card processor’s data repository.

Table 2

Component-Level Summary of Cardholders with Multiple Accounts Marked with the Account Status Description of “Lost/Stolen/Fraud”

April 1, 2024, through July 31, 2025

Component	Number of Cardholders with 1 Instance	Number of Cardholders with 2 Instances	Number of Cardholders with 3 Instances	Total
BOP	218	30	1	249
FBI	90	11	0	101
USMS	35	5	0	40
EOIR	30	5	1	36
DEA	34	2	0	36
USAO	11	1	0	12
USTP	10	0	0	10
FPI	4	3	0	7
JMD	4	0	0	4
ENRD	3	0	0	3
OJP	1	0	1	2
OIG	2	0	0	2
ATF	1	0	0	1
ATR	1	0	0	1
CIV	1	0	0	1
Total	445	57	3	505

Source: DOJ OIG analysis of data from DOJ’s charge card processor’s data repository

Table 3

Component-Level Change in Open Purchase Card Accounts

January 1, 2025, to August 1, 2025

Component	Number of Open Accounts at January 1, 2025 ^a	Number of Open Accounts at August 1, 2025 ^a	Change in Open Accounts	Percentage Change in Open Accounts
BOP	4,063	2,434	-1,629	-40.1%
FBI	1,792	1,674	-118	-6.6%
USMS	496	449	-47	-9.5%
DEA	375	352	-23	-6.1%
USAO	318	291	-27	-8.5%
FPI	149	150	1	0.7%
USTP	63	57	-6	-9.5%
JMD	56	57	1	1.9%
CRM	43	42	-1	-2.3%
OIG	36	42	6	16.7%
ATR	32	31	-1	-3.1%
ENRD	34	28	-6	-17.6%
ATF	22	24	2	9.1%
OJP	12	12	0	0%
EOIR	124	6	-118	-95.2%
CIV	5	5	0	0%
CRT	6	5	-1	-16.7%
OCDETF	5	5	0	0%
OVW	3	3	0	0%
COPS	2	2	0	0%
IPOL	2	2	0	0%
NSD	2	2	0	0%
OPA	3	2	-1	-33.3%
OSG	2	2	0	0%
TAX	5	2	-3	-60%
CRS	1	1	0	0%
FCSC	1	1	0	0%
OSC	1	1	0	0%
USPC	1	1	0	0%
Total	7,654	5,683	1,971	-25.8%

^a Represents the number of purchase card accounts that had an “Open” account status in DOJ’s charge card processor’s data repository as of January 1, 2025, and August 1, 2025.

Source: DOJ OIG analysis of data from DOJ’s charge card processor’s data repository

APPENDIX 1: Charge Card Program Acronyms

Components	
ATF	Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
ATR	Antitrust Division
BOP	Federal Bureau of Prisons
CIV	Civil Division
COPS	Office of Community Oriented Policing Services
CRM	Criminal Division
CRS	Community Relations Service
CRT	Civil Rights Division
DEA	Drug Enforcement Administration
ENRD	Environment and Natural Resources Division
EOIR	Executive Office for Immigration Review
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation
FCSC	Foreign Claims Settlement Commission
FPI	Federal Prison Industries, Inc.
IPOL	International Criminal Police Organization - Washington
JMD	Justice Management Division
NSD	National Security Division
OCDETF	Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces
OIG	Office of the Inspector General
OJP	Office of Justice Programs
OPA	Office of the Pardon Attorney
OSC	Office of Special Counsel
OSG	Office of the Solicitor General
OVW	Office on Violence Against Women
TAX	Tax Division
USAO	United States Attorneys' Offices
USMS	United States Marshals Service
USPC	United States Parole Commission
USTP	United States Trustees Program

Source: DOJ organization information and DOJ's charge card processor's data repository