

**OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL**

Inspection Report

**Physical Security in the Farm
Credit Administration's
Headquarters
I-18-04**

**Inspectors
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Issued December 7, 2018



FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION



INSPECTION OF PHYSICAL SECURITY IN FCA'S HEADQUARTERS

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OBJECTIVE

The objective of the inspection was to determine the effectiveness of controls related to physical security in FCA's headquarters.

BACKGROUND

The Farm Credit Administration (FCA or Agency) is an independent Federal agency responsible for regulating, examining, and supervising the Farm Credit System and the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation. The mission of the Agency is to ensure a safe, sound, and dependable source of credit and related services for all creditworthy and eligible persons in agriculture and rural America.

FCA employees are critical to achieving its mission, and the Agency identifies its people as a strategic priority. A critical aspect of this priority is physical security for employees and offices. FCA has its headquarters and a field office in McLean, Virginia. The Agency also has four field offices in Bloomington, Minnesota; Dallas, Texas; Denver, Colorado; and Sacramento, California.

The Farm Credit System Building Association (FCSBA) leases the office space for FCA field offices.

Physical security controls safeguard FCA employees and assets. Physical security is unique in different locations and buildings, and the strongest controls cannot eliminate security risks. However, strong controls and preparedness can improve overall security. For this inspection, we reviewed FCA headquarters and the Emergency Operations Center. Our review focused on controls in the following areas:

- Access,
- Computers and other equipment,
- Emergency preparedness, and
- Personnel records.

To test physical security controls, we performed walkthroughs and surveyed selected employees. We developed a checklist to test controls. Because each field office is unique, this checklist served as a framework to identify areas for improvement.

To accomplish our objective, we also reviewed laws, regulations, policies, and procedures; interviewed Agency personnel; and reviewed prior reviews related to our objective. This inspection was performed in accordance with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency's Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation.

We found controls were in place and generally effective. However, we identified opportunities to further improve physical security in headquarters. Our report included seven recommendations to Agency management. The Agency disagreed with Recommendation 1 and it will move to the management decision process for resolution. The Agency agreed with Recommendations 2-7. Based on the actions initiated during our review, Recommendations 3-7 are considered closed.

This report contains sensitive information about FCA and potential vulnerabilities that could be used against the Agency; therefore, we are not releasing it publicly.

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