



# INSPECTOR GENERAL

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## **Assistant DoD Inspector General Testifies Before Congress About Marine Corps Small Business Contracting Practices**

Marine Corps contracting officials did not ensure prime contractors gave small businesses sufficient subcontracting opportunities, according to Congressional testimony today from the Defense Department's assistant inspector general for contract management and payments.

Michael J. Roark testified before the House Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Contracting and Workforce, on DoD IG audits of two Marine Corps contracting offices – Systems Command and the Corps' Regional Contracting Office-National Capital Region. The audits found that both offices generally provided small businesses the opportunity to compete for prime contracts, but neither office ensured small businesses were given the chance to work as subcontractors on prime contracts awarded to larger companies.

Roark testified that the audits "[Small Business Contracting at Marine Corps Systems Command Needs Improvement](#)" and "[Small Business Contracting at Regional Contracting Office-National Capitol Region Needs Improvement](#)" were conducted in response to a complaint received through the DoD Hotline. Together, the audits reviewed 86 Marine Corps contracts valued at approximately \$1.6 billion, a sampling of the 766 contracts the two offices collectively awarded to other-than small businesses between fiscal years 2011 and 2013.

"Contracting officer involvement is very important. That was the common thread we identified in both audits," Roark said.

The audits made a total of 13 recommendations for correcting deficiencies – four for the Corps' regional contracting office and nine for Systems Command. The Marine Corps Regional Contracting Office-National Capital Region has implemented all four recommendations. Marine Corps Systems Command agreed its nine recommendations and is still in the process of taking corrective action, Roark said.

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