



Personnel Security Clearances: Progress Has
Been Made to Reduce Delays but Further
Actions Are Needed to Enhance Quality and
Sustain Reform Efforts: GAO-09-684T

U.S. Government
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By -

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Dimensions: 9.7in. x 7.4in. x 0.1in. Due to concerns about long standing delays in the security

clearance process, Congress mandated reforms in the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism

Prevention Act of 2004 (IRTPA), which requires, among other things, that the executive branch

report annually to Congress. Since 2005, the Department of Defenses (DOD) clearance program has

been on GAOs high-risk list due to delays and incomplete documentation. The Office of Personnel

Management (OPM) conducts much of the governments clearance investigations. In 2007, the

Director of National Intelligence and DOD established a Joint Reform Team to coordinate

governmentwide improvement efforts for the process. The Office of Management and Budget

(OMB) oversees these efforts. Based on two recent GAO reports, this statement addresses (1)

progress in reducing delays at DOD, (2) opportunities for improving executive branch reports to

Congress and (3) the extent to which joint reform efforts reflect key factors for reform. GAO

independently analyzed DOD clearances granted in fiscal year 2008, assessed the executive branches

2006-2009 reports to Congress, and compared three joint reform reports to key transformation

practices. GAO previously recommended that OMB improve the transparency in...

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