Quick Response Evaluation: Implementation of the Social Security Administration’s Security Performance Metrics Program (A-14-10-11002)

Our Findings

Based on our analysis, we identified some areas the Agency should be aware of as it moves forward in developing a more comprehensive security metrics program. An information security measures development process consists of two major activities:

- Identification and definition of the current information security program.
- Development and selection of specific measures to gauge the implementation, effectiveness, efficiency, and impact of the security controls.

The Social Security Administration (SSA) needs to ensure the above activities are an integral part of its process for developing information technology security performance metrics.

Matters for Consideration

We understand the Agency is developing an information security performance metrics program. We acknowledge and applaud SSA for being proactive in developing this program despite it not being required or mandated at this time. We encourage the Agency to continue these efforts and take the necessary steps to fully develop its information security performance metrics program.

- Ensuring the information security metrics performance program addresses the key measure development steps recommended by the National Institute of Standards and Technology.
- Implementing an Agency-wide information security performance metrics program in accordance with applicable Federal guidance. These measures should be measurable, repeatable, consistent, and actionable.