## #74/ Examining Financial Reporting Processes for Effective Internal Control Test Work





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Office of Internal Control, U.S. Coast Guard 30 May 2019

#### U.S. Coast Guard - Office of Internal Controls

- Ensure key Internal Controls over Financial Reporting (ICOFR) exist, are adequately documented and function effectively
- Test and assess reliability of financial reporting business processes throughout the year (consistent and repeatable)
- Monitor Corrective Action Plans (CAPs) and perform Validation and Verification (V&V)

#### U.S. Coast Guard - Office of Internal Controls

- Periodic reporting of results internally (Process Owners, CFO and Governance oversight bodies) and externally (DHS)
- Support the growth and increasing integration and relevance of ERM
- Coordinate the Annual Statement of Assurance process

## Overview

- Enterprise Risk Management (ERM)
- External Audit and the DHS/FAA
- Process controls and IPE
- Risk Assessment

### Overview

- Test of Design (TOD)
- Test of Effectiveness (TOE)
- Corrective Action Plans
- Fraud Considerations
- Wrap-up and Questions

## OMB A-123/ Internal Controls

Requirement from OMB Circular A-123

Agencies should provide **reasonable assurance** that the following objectives are being achieved:

- Effectiveness and efficiency of operations
- Reliability of reporting
- Compliance with applicable laws and regulations

# OMB A-123/ Internal Controls (Appendix A update, June 2018)

- Requirement to integrate a risk-based
   approach towards meeting strategic, operations,
   reporting and compliance objectives
- Shift and expansion from Internal Control Over Financial Reporting (ICOFR) to Internal Control Over Reporting (ICOR)
- Integration of ICOR with <u>Enterprise Risk</u>
   <u>Management</u>

## Enterprise Risk Management

#### One definition:

An effective <u>Agency-wide</u> approach to <u>addressing</u> the full spectrum of the organization's <u>external</u> <u>and internal</u> risks by understanding the combined impact of risks as an <u>interrelated</u> portfolio, rather than addressing risks only within silos.

## Enterprise Risk Management

#### Another definition:

An enterprise-wide, strategically-aligned portfolio view of organizational challenges that provides better **insight** about how to most effectively **prioritize resource allocations** to ensure successful mission delivery.

# **ERM Policy Framework**



Strategic Decisions (OMB A-11)

- Mission/Vision
- Performance Goal Setting/ Metrics
- Objective Setting
- Establish Risk Thresholds

Budget Decisions (OMB A-11)

- Policy
- President's Budget
- Congressional Justification

Program Management (OMB A-11)

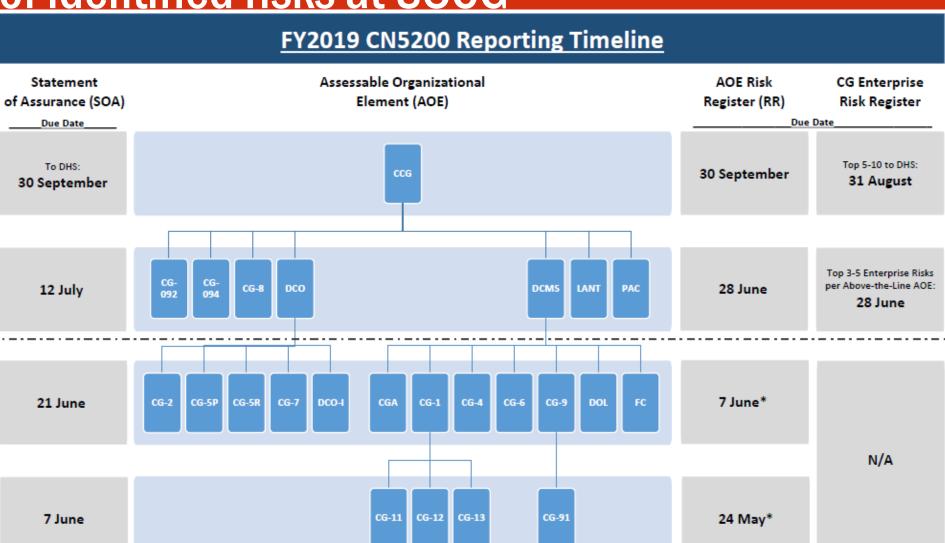
- Cross Agency Priority Goals
- Agency Priority Goals
- Agency Program Reviews

CXO/Operations
Support
(OMB A-123)

- Operational Control Objectives
- · Reporting Control Objectives
- Compliance Control Objectives
- Risk Assessments

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# Statement of Assurance and the consideration of identified risks at USCG



NOTE: Dates marked with an asterisk (\*) are not defined by the CN5200 and are at the discretion of the Parent AOE. These dates are provided as suggested dates for Subordinate AOEs to deliver AOE Risk Registers to the Parent AOE.

## Risk Register - risks to consider

Risks you own that would have an Enterprise-wide impact if realized, given current:

- Resources (personnel, assets, budget)
- Missions
- Operating Environment

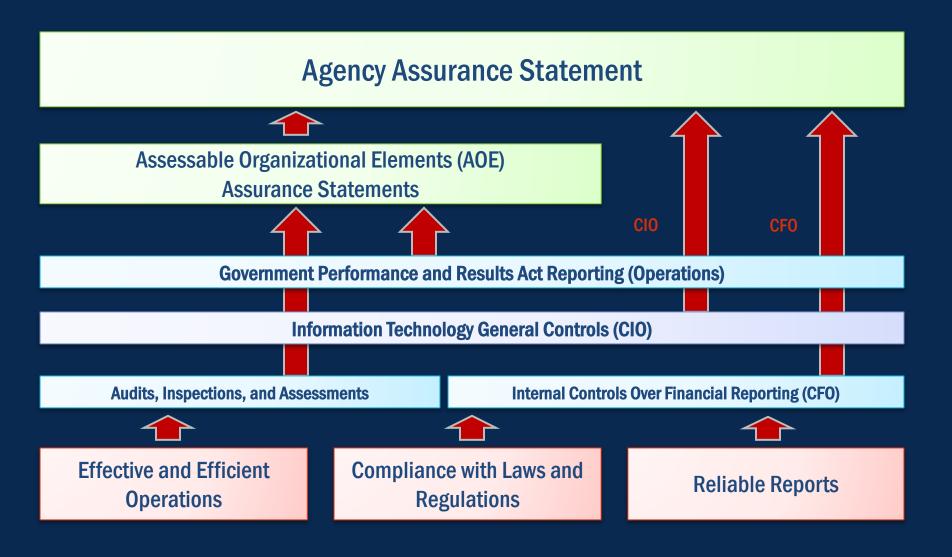
### And taking into consideration:

- Risks to Nation/ strategic goals and objectives
- Significant risks that impact multiple AOEs
- Risks, that when aggregated or interact, have significant impact on USCG

## Risk Register – some potential users

- Planning Tool (Informs IPL, PPBE, etc.)
- Decision Tool (Prioritization and Utilization)
- Resourcing Tool (Allocation)
- Communication Tool (Vertical and Horizontal)

# **Internal Control Reporting**



## **External Financial Audit**

#### **External Audit-**

Provides <u>reasonable assurance</u> that financial statements are prepared in conformity with accepted accounting standards (*GAGAS*)

#### **External Auditors-**

Independent third party provides an opinion based on examining (test basis) evidence supporting amounts & disclosures in the financial statements "using procedures & professional judgment reasonable to the circumstances"

## **External Financial Audit**

External Audit is an *independent* examination vs. Internal Controls which are integrated <u>within</u> the Agency & Components

External Auditors have <u>sole responsibility</u> for expressing an Audit opinion on the financial statements; risk <u>cannot</u> be shared w/ others

DHS & USCG have earned an unmodified (clean) Audit opinion on financial statements for 6 years running

## **External Financial Audit**

- Some of what Internal reviewers look at is not directly related to scope of the External Audit (e.g., efficiency and effectiveness)
- However, reviews of Internal Controls are very relevant – if done "competently and objectively," it can result in <u>broader reliance</u> on controls and reduced duplication of testing

## DHS Financial Accountability Act (FAA) of 2004

- Pursuant to the DHS FAA, the Department must obtain an opinion over internal control over financial reporting (Integrated Audit)
- Using GAO Standards for Internal Control and Circular A-123 as criteria, (DHS)...has demonstrated continued progress in reducing its financial material weaknesses maintaining progress over sustained processes through routine internal control testing

Source: Department of Homeland Security - FY2017 Agency Financial Report

## DHS Financial Accountability Act (FAA) of 2004

...the Department can provide reasonable assurance that its internal control over financial reporting was designed and operating effectively, with the exception of the following two areas: 1) Financial Reporting and 2)Information Technology Controls and Systems Functionality, where material weaknesses have been identified and remediation is in process...

Source: Department of Homeland Security - FY2018 Agency Financial Report

#### What is Process Control?

A well controlled process is designed to provide <u>reasonable assurance</u> that the financial statements are reliably reported.

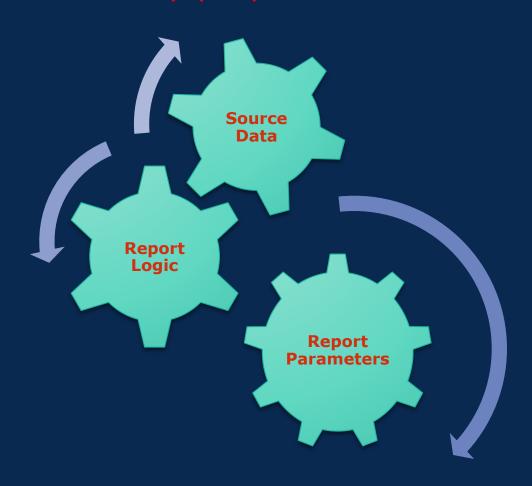


## **Activity versus Control**

- An activity does not automatically indicate a control is in place and functioning.
  - -Not every activity is a control, but every control is an activity
- Controls may either prevent errors (preventive) or detect their occurrence (detective) preventive controls are seen as stronger.
  - Control ensures objectives are met

#### What is IPE?

Any information created by the entity using the entity's IT applications, end-user computing tools or other manually prepared information



#### Risks of IPE

In order to obtain reliable evidence, information produced by the entity ("IPE") needs to be:

- Sufficiently Complete and Accurate
- Produced with Proper Segregation of Duties
- Supportive of Valuation assumptions

## **Key Questions about IPE**

- How would you know a report is incomplete or inaccurate?
- Given the complexity of reporting processes, how can a report have an error?
- How many reports go through multiple input points (system and manual) before the final report is produced?
- How easy is it to relate the final report data to the information originally input into the system?

## **Materiality and Control Test Work**

- Assess Risk and Determine Scope
  - Control activities related to significant line items and processes
- Test of Design (Baseline)
- Test of Effectiveness
- Results Reporting

#### **Test Attributes - Definition**

- Test attributes are qualities or characteristics of a sampling unit that demonstrate process control.
- These attributes should be characteristics that are consistent across the entire population.

## **Designing Test Attributes**

Test attributes help to identify key areas to test and emphasize the following:



- Population
- Documentation
- Reviews
- Approvals
- Timeliness

#### **USCG Pilot Risk Assessment Model**

- Current State: Absence of standardized risk assessment process = full scope, full baseline testing.
- Testing approximately 300 controls across
   20+ distinct process owners.
- New initiatives with no increase in staffing.
- Furlough caused significant loss in capacity.

#### **USCG Pilot Risk Assessment Model**

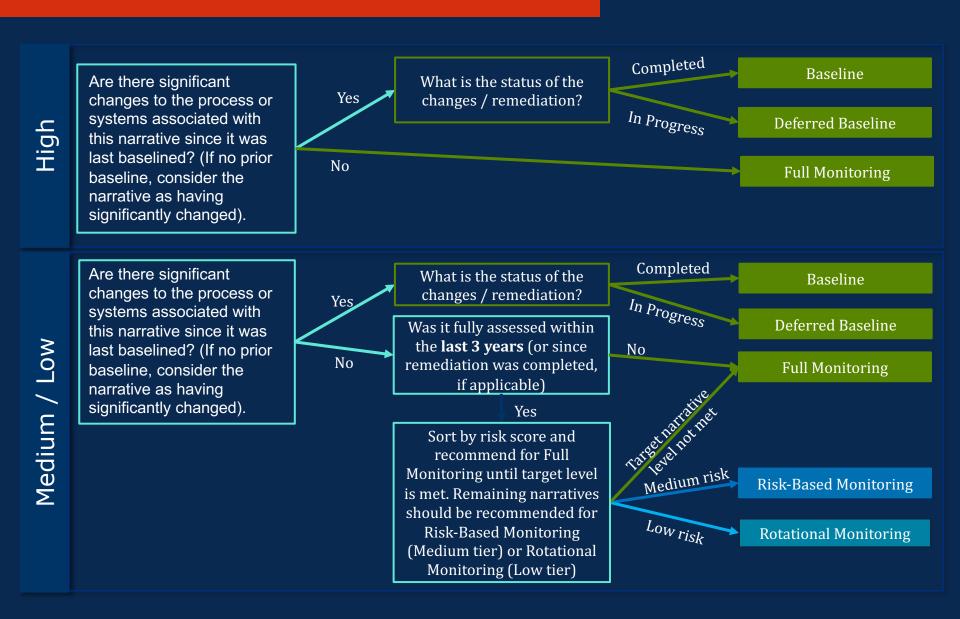
## 3 primary components:

- CG-85 assessment
- Process owner level assessment: (characteristics of control structure that are consistent across all sub-process for a given process owner)
- Sub-Process level risk

## **Risk Assessment Recommendations**

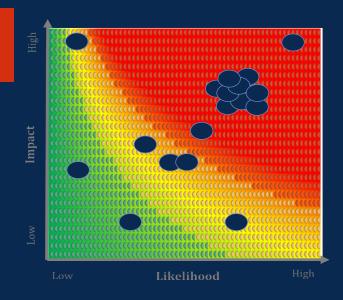
Scoping Option	Description	Applicable Risk Tier
Baseline	No baseline exists or the internal controls within the narrative have significantly changed or have been remediated.  CG-85 will complete a full TOD, with updates to walkthroughs, narratives, flowcharts, tests of one, and perform quarterly TOE for Q1, Q2, and Q3 over all key controls that pass TOD using full sample sizes as outlined in the ICOFR Process Guide. CG-85 will complete a Q4 roll forward to identify and document any changes to the process through inquiry.	
Deferred Baseline	The narrative and internal controls will significantly change <b>during the assessment year</b> , meaning a baseline TOD will be required to document the future internal controls.  CG-85 will <b>complete a full TOD</b> , with updates to walkthroughs, narratives, flowcharts, and tests of one once narrative is ready to be baselined. CG-85 will <b>perform quarterly TOE</b> over all key controls that pass TOD <b>using full sample sizes</b> as outlined in the ICOFR Process Guide.  CG-85 can wait until the new process is implemented or begin TOD before the process has been implemented based on professional judgement.	All risk tiers
Full Monitoring	A baseline exists and internal controls have not changed significantly since the last assessment. Narrative will undergo full scope routine monitoring, per the ICOFR Process Guide. Process owners will <b>validate controls</b> through inquiry using the A-123 Portal as referenced in the Walkthroughs section of the A-123 Portal Quick Reference Guide. CG-85 will complete the <b>test of one</b> and <b>perform quarterly TOE</b> with <b>full sample sizes</b> .	
Risk-Based	A baseline exists and internal controls have not changed significantly since the last assessment. Process owners will <b>validate controls</b> through inquiry using the A-123 Portal as referenced in the Walkthroughs section of the A-123 Portal Quick Reference Guide. CG-85 will complete the <b>test of one</b> and <b>perform quarterly TOE</b> with <b>limited sample sizes</b> included within the ICOFR Process Guide.	Medium
Rotational Monitoring	A baseline exists and internal controls have not changed significantly since the last assessment. Process owners will <b>validate controls</b> through inquiry using the A-123 Portal each year. CG-85 will complete the <b>test of one</b> and <b>perform quarterly TOE</b> with <b>full samples sizes</b> in a <b>3-year rotation cycle</b> .	Low

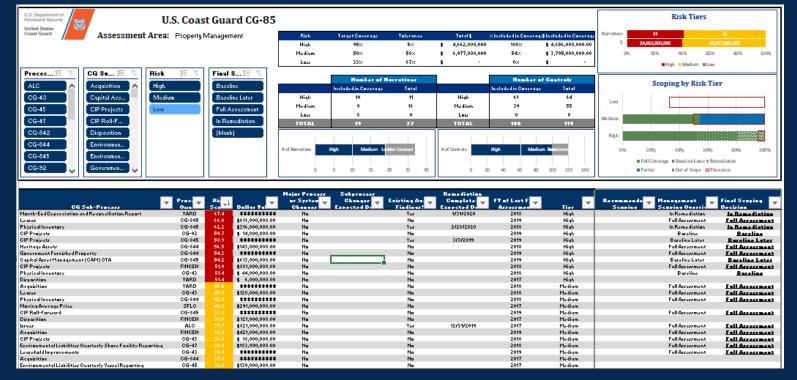
#### **Risk Assessment Recommendations**



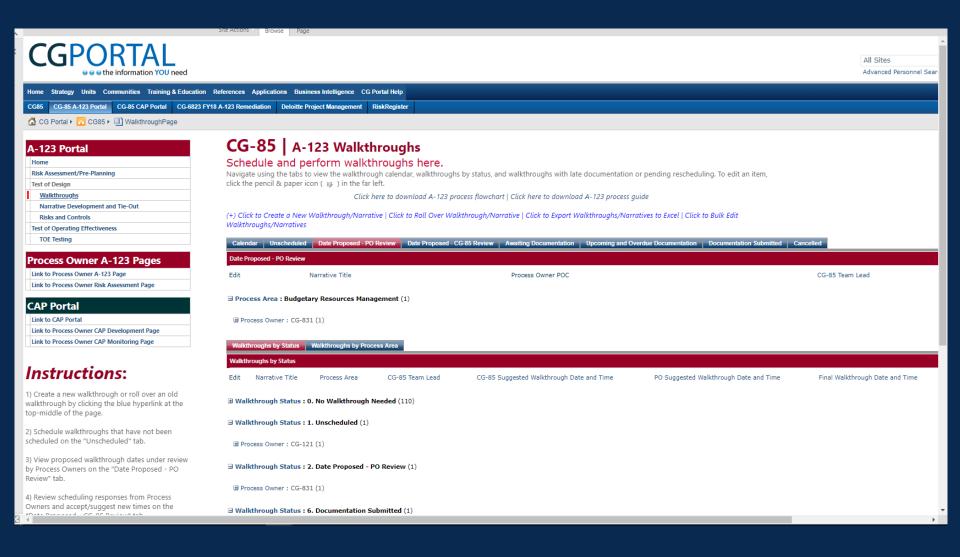
#### **Risk Assessment Benefits**

- A portfolio view of risk into USCG's 200+ narratives and 20+ Process Owners.
- Focuses resources on high risk narratives and baselining unknown processes.
- Maintains 100% coverage over a 3-year period for Medium and Low risk narratives.

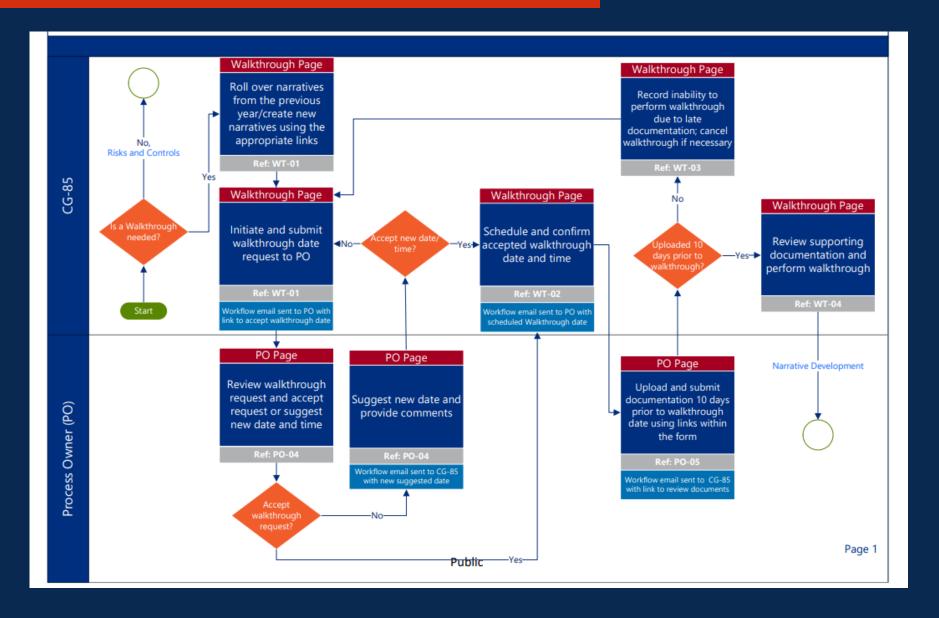




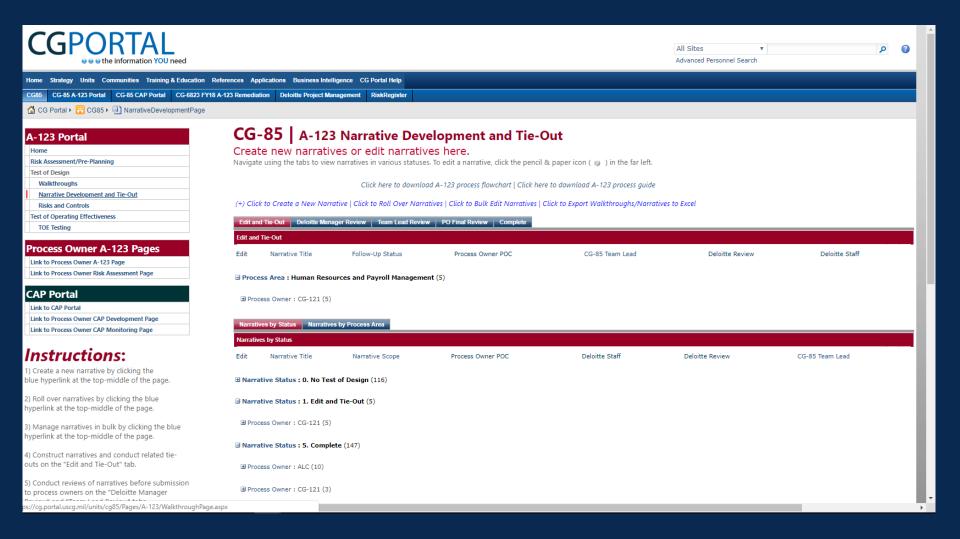
#### Test of Design - Process Walkthroughs



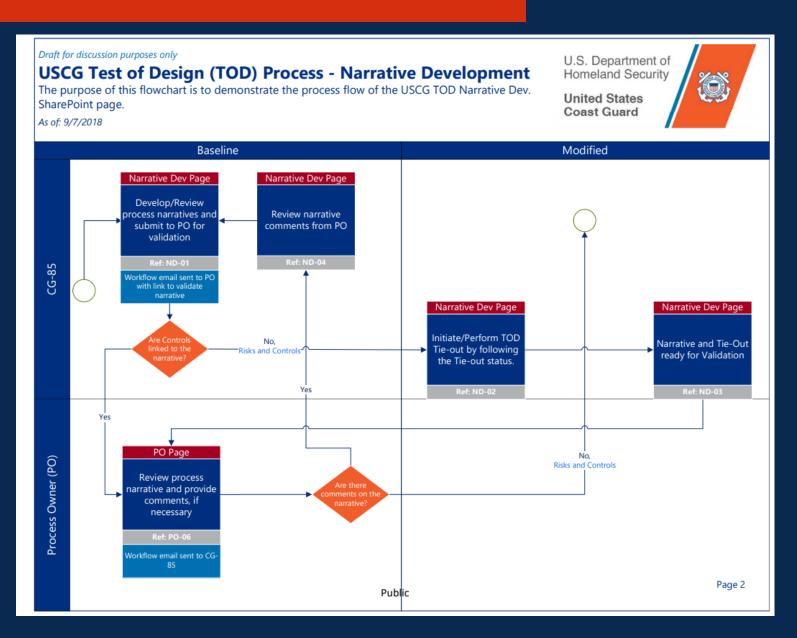
#### **Test of Design - Process Walkthroughs**



#### **Test of Design – Narrative Development & Sample Tie Out**



#### **Test of Design – Narrative Development & Sample Tie Out**



### **Test of Effectiveness**



#### Process Owner A-123 Pages

Link to Process Owner A-123 Page Link to Process Owner Risk Assessment Page

#### CAP Portal

Link to CAP Portal

Link to Process Owner CAP Development Page Link to Process Owner CAP Monitoring Page

#### Instructions:

1) Add/edit test plans by clicking the blue hyperlinks at the top-middle of the page.

Link controls tested in TOE to related test plans on the "Unassigned Controls" tab.

 Draft test plans and documentation requests on the "Draft" tab.

4) Conduct team lead review of test plans on the "Team Lead Review" tab.

5) Create/edit population requests by clicking the blue hyperlinks at the top-middle of the page.

 View population requests submitted to process owners on the "Population Requested" tab.

7) View population documentation submitted by process owners on the "Population Submitted"

8) View/request population follow-up on the "Population Follow-Up" Tab.

 Create/edit samples by clicking the blue hyperlink to the sample generator at the topmiddle of the page.

10) View sample requests submitted to process owners on the "Sample(s) Requested" tab.

 View sample documentation submitted by process owners on the "Sample(s) Delivered" tab.

#### CG-85 | A-123 Test of Operating Effectiveness (TOE)

Create test plans and population and sample documentation requests and conduct TOE Testing here.

Navigate using the tabs to view population and samples requests, and test plans in various statuses. To edit an item, click the pencil & paper icon ( ) in the far left.

(+) Click to Create a Test Plan | Click to Bulk Add/Edit Test Plans | (+) Click to Create a New Population Request | Click to Bulk Add/Edit Population Requests | Click to Open Sample Generator | (+) Click to Create a Sample | Click to Bulk Add/Edit Samples | Click to Open CEM Export Tool

#### **Test Plan Development**

Develop test plans and assign them to controls here.



#### **Management Control Requests**

View and respond to population and sample requests here

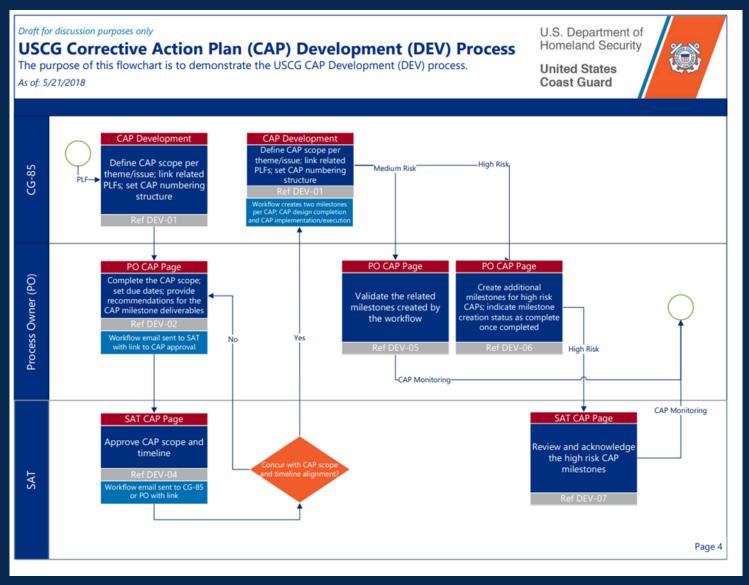


#### Testing

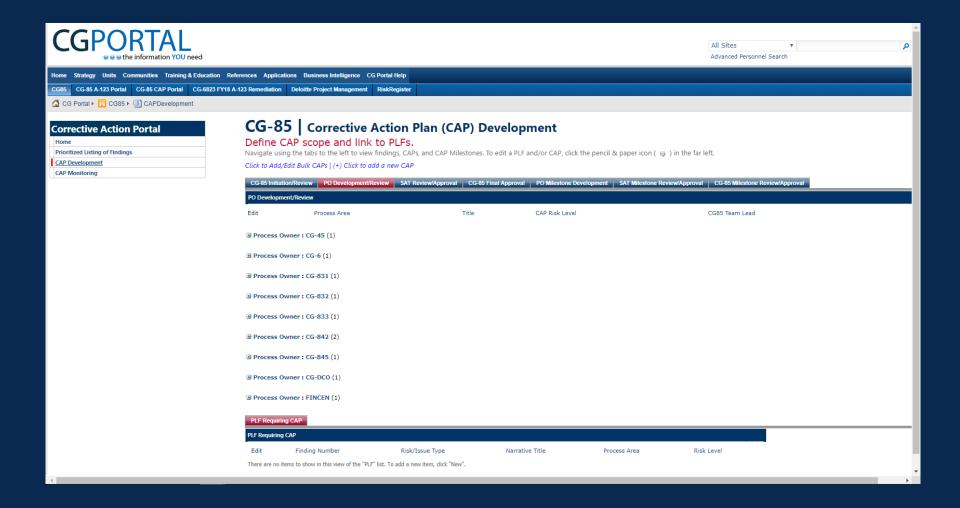
Conduct TOE testing here

Testing in Progre	ess CG-85 Review PO Fin	dings Review   Testing Complete   All Test Plans b	y Status	
Testing in Progres				
Edit	Test Plan	Process Area	CG-85 Team Lead/Reviewer	
© TOE Test Plan Queue : CG-85 (137)				
B) TOE Test Plan Queue : PO (7)				

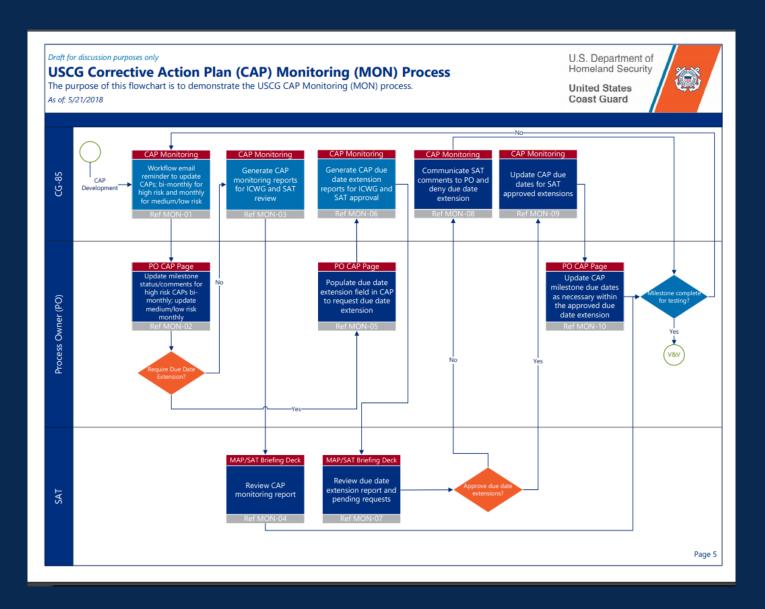
# Process Remediation (Corrective Action Plans): Plan Development



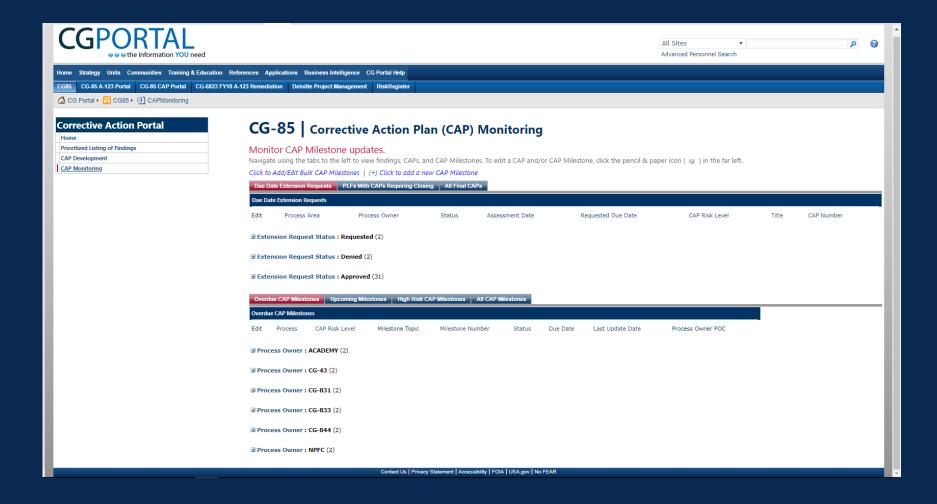
# Process Remediation (Corrective Action Plans): Plan Development



# Process Remediation (Corrective Action Plans): Monitoring



# Process Remediation (Corrective Action Plans): Plan Development



### **Virtual Workflow Benefits**

- Improved Auditability
  - Time stamped activities
  - Virtual Signature Capability
  - Centralized & Consistent Data Management
- Communication Optimization
- Standardized Business Rules
- Improved Source Data for Metrics Visualization



### **Fraud Considerations**

### Why consider fraud?

- Required per GAO and COSO
- Reduces Political Risk
- Avoid losses
- Identify opportunities to strengthen control environment & good governance

# **Political Risk?**





## Fraud - GAO Green Book - Principle #8

#### **GAO Green Book**

Principle 8 – Assess Fraud Risk

Management should consider the potential for fraud when identifying, analyzing and responding to risks

# Fraud as defined by GAO

### GAO Green Book (8.02)

- Fraudulent financial reporting Intentional misstatements, omissions of amounts or disclosures in Financial Statements
- Misappropriation of assets Theft of property, embezzlement of receipts, or fraudulent payments
- Corruption Bribery & other illegal acts

# Fraud - Legal definition

#### Fraud

- Intentionally false representation
- Not an error
- Lying or concealing actions
- Pattern of unethical behavior
- Personal material benefit
- Organizational or victim loss

## **The Fraud Triangle**

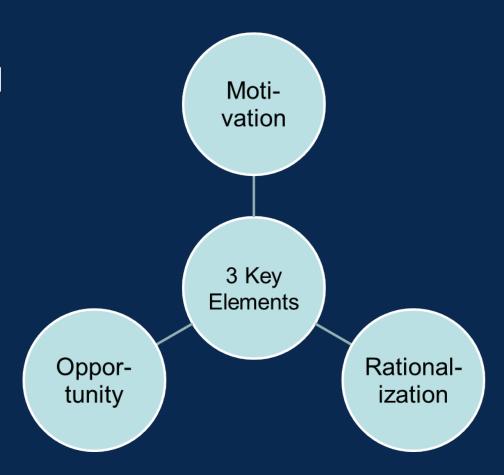
#### **Motivation:**

Need or perceived need

### **Opportunity:**

Access to assets, information, computers, people

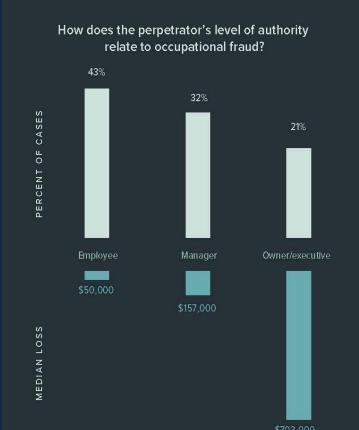
# **Rationalization:**Justification for action

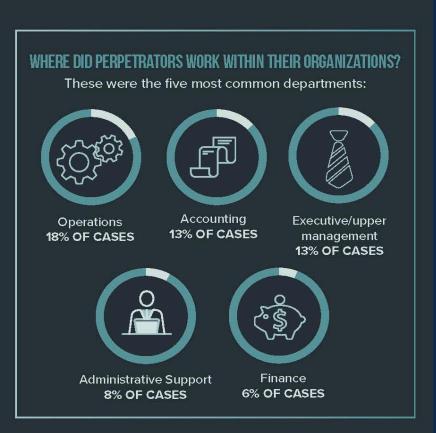


# **ACFE RTTN Government Edition (2018)**

#### PROFILE OF A FRAUD PERPETRATOR

Understanding the common characteristics of fraud offenders can help organizations improve their ability to detect fraud and minimize their risk of loss. The following information is based on the perpetrators in our study who worked for government agencies.





### Fraud & link to External Audit (reliance upon)

External audits should not be relied upon as an organization's primary fraud detection method...they detected only 3% (4% in 2018) of the frauds reported to us, and they ranked poorly in limiting fraud losses

While external audits serve an important purpose and can have a strong preventive effect on potential fraud, their usefulness as a means of uncovering fraud is limited

Source: ACFE/ Report to the Nations on occupational fraud and abuse © 2012

## **USCG Fraud Prevention Program**

- Annual Fraud Risk Questionnaire
- Fraud Risk Assessment
- Process Walkthroughs
- Ad Hoc Training
- CGIS & OIG Hotlines

# **Questions?**



## **Internal Control Wrap up**

### Why Do We Care?

- Obtain and maintain a clean Audit opinion
- Better understand and report on risks
- Improved business processes
- Increased efficiency and effectiveness
- Verify reliability of financial reporting

## **Contact Information**

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