



consist of risk management, configuration management, identity and access management, security training, information security continuous monitoring, incident response, and contingency planning. OIG reported, “The primary reason the Department has not implemented an effective information security program is because the [Chief Information Officer] does not have sufficient authority to manage IT activities, as provided for in law. Furthermore, the [Chief Information Officer] is not properly positioned within the Department to ensure that the Department’s information security program is effective.”

Without an effective information security program, the Department is vulnerable to IT-centered attacks and threats. Information security program weaknesses can affect the integrity of financial applications, which increases the risk that sensitive financial information could be accessed by unauthorized individuals or that financial transactions could be altered, either accidentally or intentionally. Information security program weaknesses increase the risk that the Department will be unable to report financial data accurately.

The weaknesses reported by OIG as a result of the FISMA audit are considered to be a significant deficiency within the scope of our financial statement audit. We have reported weaknesses in IT security controls as a significant deficiency in each audit since our audit of the Department’s FY 2009 financial statements.

During the audit, we noted certain additional matters involving internal control over financial reporting that we will report to Department management in a separate letter.

Status of Prior Year Findings

In the Independent Auditor’s Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting included in the audit report on the Department’s FY 2016 financial statements,² we noted several issues that were related to internal control over financial reporting. The status of the FY 2016 internal control findings is summarized in Table 1.

² OIG, *Independent Auditor’s Report on the U.S. Department of State 2016 and 2015 Financial Statements* (AUD-FM-17-09, November 2016).

