



# INTERAGENCY GROUP on INSULAR AREAS (IGIA)

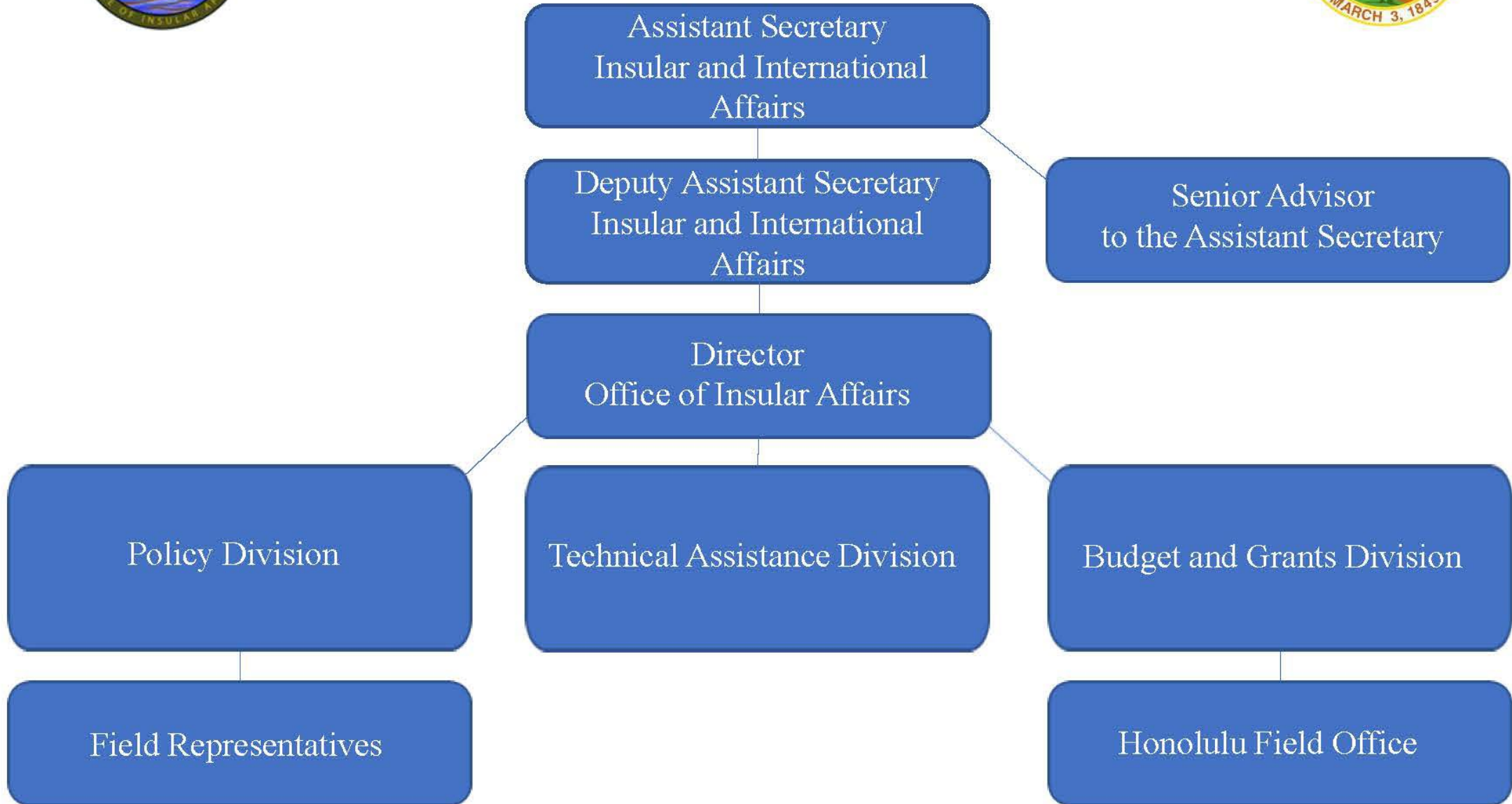
# INTERIOR'S MISSION

The Secretary of the Interior is responsible for coordinating federal policy with respect to the territories and administering and overseeing U.S. federal assistance provided to the freely associated states.





# OFFICE OF INSULAR AFFAIRS



GAO/NSIAD-85-44 FEBRUARY 7, 1985

## **Issues Affecting U.S. Territory And Insular Policy**

# U.S. Has Made Great Investments

The United States has helped to finance and build schools, hospitals, housing, roads, utilities, and other infrastructure and provided health, educational, and other social services which have enhanced the well-being of territorial residents.

Notwithstanding these efforts, most of the territories have made little progress toward becoming economically self-reliant and remain highly dependent on federal assistance.

# Indigenous Constraints challenge Self-reliance

Most of the territories face many indigenous constraints--such as geographic isolation from U.S. and world markets, limited natural and manpower resources, small land areas, limited infrastructure to support development and attract investment, and large public sectors--which make economic self-reliance an unlikely prospect for the foreseeable future.

# No Federal Development Policy

GAO found that there is no federal policy which details how the territories should be treated in formulating and extending laws and programs.

Territory officials identified instances when federal policies, laws, and programs have constrained economic and social development because they were inconsistently applied, insensitive to unique territorial circumstances and needs, or inappropriate for local conditions.

# Interagency Collaboration Needed

Establishment of a formal inter agency policy group authorized to address major policy matters in a comprehensive fashion or a legislatively authorized office attached to the White House, might provide the representative focal point wanted by many territorial leaders.

Although an organizational change may not enhance or resolve U.S. territorial relations without a corresponding clarification of U.S. policy... it could provide the impetus for addressing these issues.

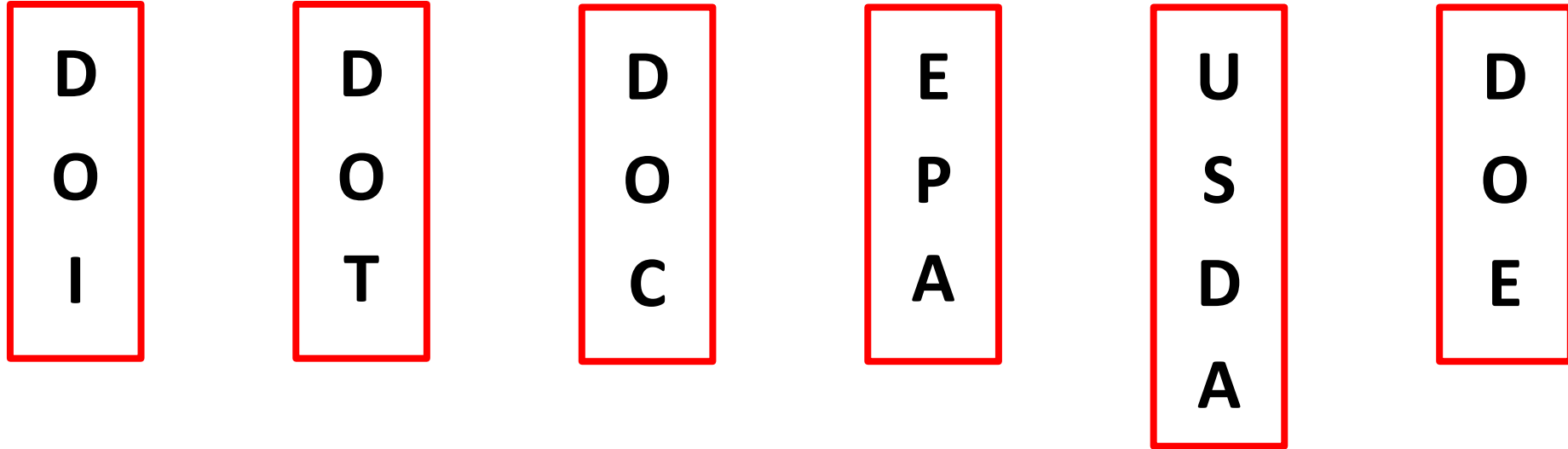


# INTERAGENCY GROUP ON INSULAR AREAS



- Established by Executive Order in 2003 and updated in 2010.
- The Secretary of the Interior and the White House Director of Intergovernmental Affairs convene the group annually for the Governors and Delegates to present priorities and concerns.
- Platform for developing and coordinating Federal Territorial policy.

# The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law



## Department Infrastructure Czars

- Update funding opportunities by program.
- Provide status report on Territorial participation.
- Discuss lessons learned and hazards and opportunities.



## Contact

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