



Office of Inspector General

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**United States Department of State
and the Broadcasting Board of Governors
Office of Inspector General**

Office of Inspections

**International Broadcasting Bureau's
Germany Transmitting Station**

Report Number ISP-IB-11-66, September 2011

~~Important Notice~~

~~This report is intended solely for the official use of the Department of State or the Broadcasting Board of Governors, or any agency or organization receiving a copy directly from the Office of Inspector General. No secondary distribution may be made, in whole or in part, outside the Department of State or the Broadcasting Board of Governors, by them or by other agencies or organizations, without prior authorization by the Inspector General. Public availability of the document will be determined by the Inspector General under the U.S. Code, 5 U.S.C. 552. Improper disclosure of this report may result in criminal, civil, or administrative penalties.~~

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

PURPOSE, SCOPE, AND METHODOLOGY OF THE INSPECTION

This inspection was conducted in accordance with the Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation, as issued in 2011 by the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, and the Inspector's Handbook, as issued by the Office of Inspector General for the U.S. Department of State (Department) and the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG).

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Office of Inspections provides the Secretary of State, the Chairman of the BBG, and Congress with systematic and independent evaluations of the operations of the Department and the BBG. Inspections cover three broad areas, consistent with Section 209 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980:

- **Policy Implementation:** whether policy goals and objectives are being effectively achieved; whether U.S. interests are being accurately and effectively represented; and whether all elements of an office or mission are being adequately coordinated.
- **Resource Management:** whether resources are being used and managed with maximum efficiency, effectiveness, and economy and whether financial transactions and accounts are properly conducted, maintained, and reported.
- **Management Controls:** whether the administration of activities and operations meets the requirements of applicable laws and regulations; whether internal management controls have been instituted to ensure quality of performance and reduce the likelihood of mismanagement; whether instance of fraud, waste, or abuse exist; and whether adequate steps for detection, correction, and prevention have been taken.

METHODOLOGY

In conducting this inspection, the inspectors: reviewed pertinent records; as appropriate, circulated, reviewed, and compiled the results of survey instruments; conducted on-site interviews; and reviewed the substance of the report and its findings and recommendations with offices, individuals, organizations, and activities affected by this review.



United States Department of State
and the Broadcasting Board of Governors

Office of Inspector General

PREFACE

This report was prepared by the Office of Inspector General (OIG) pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, and Section 209 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980, as amended. It is one of a series of audit, inspection, investigative, and special reports prepared by OIG periodically as part of its responsibility to promote effective management, accountability and positive change in the Department of State and the Broadcasting Board of Governors.

This report is the result of an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the office, post, or function under review. It is based on interviews with employees and officials of relevant agencies and institutions, direct observation, and a review of applicable documents.

The recommendations therein have been developed on the basis of the best knowledge available to the OIG and, as appropriate, have been discussed in draft with those responsible for implementation. It is my hope that these recommendations will result in more effective, efficient, and/or economical operations.

I express my appreciation to all of those who contributed to the preparation of this report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H.W. Geisel".

Harold W. Geisel
Deputy Inspector General

Table of Contents

Key Judgments	1
Context	2
Station History and Mission	2
Executive Direction	3
Mission and Program Implementation	4
Resource Management	7
Human Resources	7
Property Management	8
Procurement	8
Value-Added Tax	8
Information Management	9
Security	11
Recommendations	12
Principal Officials	13
Abbreviations	14
Appendix: Target Audiences by Language and Location	15

Key Judgments

- The International Broadcasting Bureau (IBB) Germany Transmitting Station provides global systemwide support to other IBB transmitting stations, transmitters in third countries, and affiliates in third countries in terms of innovation, automation, monitoring, and intervention, and it does so with a talented staff that has been reduced to historically low numbers.
- The IBB Germany Transmitting Station serves a critical role in supporting the implementation of part of the U.S. strategic communication strategy in Afghanistan through the Golden Eagle program and other transmitting initiatives.
- The Lampertheim site has been transformed from being only a shortwave transmitting station to also performing many satellite system functions, including serving as the alternate satellite uplink for IBB Prague and IBB Transmitting Station Kuwait.
- The Ministry of Finance does not honor requests for refunds of value-added taxes (VAT). This issue, identified in the last inspection, requires action by Embassy Berlin, in coordination with the Department of State (Department) and the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG).
- Thanks in large measure to automation pioneered by its own staff, the IBB Germany Transmitting Station does as much as, or more than, the larger station of earlier years and with less staff, reducing the number of shifts from three to one. It achieved this efficiency and productivity by maintaining key human capital, especially those involved in the design, installation, update, and expansion of the automated systems.

The inspection took place in Washington, DC, between April 18 and May 6, 2011, and in Lampertheim and Biblis, Germany, between May 23 and June 6, 2011. (b) (6)

Context

Station History and Mission

With the closure of the Holzkirchen site in 2004 and the Ismaning site in 2007, the IBB Germany Transmitting Station now has two functioning sites, one at Lampertheim and another at Biblis. Both are in the Consulate General Frankfurt consular district. A third nonfunctioning site, at Erching, is undeveloped land and is in the process of being sold.

The history of the station dates back to 1946 when the Voice of America broadcast from the Munich Relay Station, formerly used by the Nazis. The Voice of America also broadcast under the so-called ARBIE Agreement (American Radio Bases in Europe and Radio in the American Sector-Hof) from Ismaning. The ARBIE Agreement went into effect in May 1955 and gave the Voice of America duty-free treatment and exemption from taxation, including VAT. The original property at that site was eventually turned over to Bavarian State Radio, and a newer site located directly across the road and separating the two was modernized and expanded as an uplinking satellite gateway in the BBG satellite interconnect system. Radio Free Europe operated sites at Holzkirchen and Lampertheim, and Radio Liberty operated the site at Biblis. This arrangement continued even after the consolidation of the two private corporation grantee broadcasters into Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) in 1976. As a nongovernment entity, RFE/RL was subject to VAT. The IBB Germany Transmitting Station was created on July 1, 1995, when the Voice of America and RFE/RL were placed under the BBG and their transmitting stations merged into one, pursuant to the U.S. International Broadcasting Act of 1994.¹ The German Government acknowledged, by exchange of diplomatic notes in 1995, that the former RFE/RL sites changed status and were thenceforth covered by the ARBIE Agreement. For several years thereafter, the IBB Germany Transmitting Station paid VAT and had its submissions for VAT refunds honored. The current status of the VAT issue is covered in the Resource Management section of this report.

The transmissions from the original sites were targeted primarily at audiences in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and its Eastern European Warsaw Pact allies. That changed with the end of the Cold War and the independence of the former Soviet satellite nations of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Republics. The current audience is primarily the Middle East, North Africa, South West Asia, and South Central Asia, but also includes Eurasia, the Caucasus, Tibet, and East Africa (see the appendix to this report).

Station Resources

The Lampertheim and Biblis sites are shortwave transmitting facilities with eight shortwave transmitters each. Lampertheim has also taken on much of the equipment that had been at Ismaning and serves a major satellite role, including as a backup satellite uplink facility for IBB Prague. Lampertheim also can perform this backup satellite uplink role for IBB Transmitting Station Kuwait.²

¹ Pub. L. No. 103-236.

² The IBB Germany Transmitting Station Lampertheim site is the direct backup to the RFE/RL Prague uplink. RFE/RL Prague has the capability to control the Lampertheim HPAs remotely so that no staff resources are

Executive Direction

One Foreign Service officer serves as the station manager with 19 locally employed (LE) staff. A contract supplies two people at each site for buildings and grounds maintenance. With the downsizing of IBB Germany Transmitting Station sites and the greater use of automation, the station has undergone a series of reductions in force. In the end, thanks in large measure to automation, the station does as much as, or more than, the larger station did—and with less staff. A key to this has also been in maintaining key human capital, especially those involved in the design, installation, update, and expansion of automated systems. The transmitting site managers at Lampertheim and Biblis and the facilities manager are all LE staff members, even though these positions are normally held by Foreign Service officers.

During the move of RFE/RL headquarters from its central city location in Prague, Czech Republic, to its new location outside Prague, the IBB Germany Transmitting Station Lampertheim site performed for several months in its backup uplink role, which included functioning as a satellite gateway until the Prague facility came back on line. The Lampertheim site can perform this function instantaneously, if required, and also conducts periodic tests to maintain system readiness.

The sole American manager not only manages the locally performed functions and facilities but spends as much as 60 percent of his time managing the IBB AM and FM transmitting program in Afghanistan. He also has oversight of the two hybrid transmitting facilities in Tajikistan and Cyprus and maintains good relations with Embassies Kabul, Dushanbe, and Nicosia. With the assistance of Embassies Kabul and Dushanbe, he has negotiated bilateral agreements, including that for the operation of the transmitter in Khost, Afghanistan, and the renewal of the television broadcast contract, which was completed during the inspection. Although he does not attend Consulate General Frankfurt team meetings, he is considered an “invisible” member of its team. The station manager did establish a small office at Consulate General Frankfurt because of the high volume of interaction with the Frankfurt financial management office. That office is staffed with a key administrative employee, one of three mission critical staff members retained upon the closure of the former headquarters site at Ismaning, who divides her time between Frankfurt and the Lampertheim site.

Although the IBB Germany Transmitting Station has been repeatedly downsized in recent years, employee morale remains high, and there is mutual respect between the staff and the station manager.

required, resulting in the elimination of delays. All Lampertheim satellite systems are automatic or remote-controlled in emergencies or after regular working hours. In addition, Lampertheim is equipped with a direct fiber link to Washington, DC (east fiber link), so that in the event of a major problem, it can broadcast to Hot Bird. The same would apply should the Atlantic Ocean Relay satellite be down. Lampertheim is also equipped with the “Prague Backup System,” which provides backup for audio and video should there be a catastrophic event in Prague. Lampertheim would be able to receive signals directly from RFE/RL Prague News Bureaus via satellite, ISDN, or analog telephone connections. In the event that Prague loses its ability to uplink to the Atlantic Ocean Relay satellite, Lampertheim could use the Prague Backup System as the signal source and uplink, versus Prague, to the Atlantic Ocean Relay satellite on the Prague E1 frequency.

Mission and Program Implementation

In addition to transmitting broadcasts in shortwave, the IBB Germany Transmitting Station plays a role in supporting part of the strategic communication effort in Afghanistan; overseeing a facility and contractor in Orzu, Tajikistan; and overseeing broadcasting through a contractor in Cyprus. The inspection team did not visit those third country sites but interviewed staff members who either travel regularly to those sites or interface virtually with contractors at them. Further details on the scope of the OIG team's direct observation and evaluation are provided at the end of this section. The station also relays television and radio programming from regions of interest to Washington end users via a fiber optic land link, which is much more economical than using satellite time.

The IBB Germany Transmitting Station is the primary implementing office of the Golden Eagle program in Afghanistan. This program extends the reach of BBG FM programming in Dari and Pashto inside Afghanistan. The station also manages two powerful mediumwave transmitters for programming from the Voice of America and Radio Free Afghanistan. One transmitter is in Kabul and the other is in Khost, near the border with Pakistan. There are currently eight FM transmitters in Afghanistan (b) (5) and the station manager has negotiated rights with the Ministry of Communications and Radio and Television Afghanistan to operate 14 more FM sites. There is a plan, partially funded by BBG, to set up and operate 7 of the 14 new sites to bring the total number to 15. (b) (5)

The new FM transmitters are assembled, automated, and tested at the Biblis site. This practice saves more than 50 percent of the cost that would be incurred by contracting out that same work, for a total savings of more than \$250,000. The transmitters are contained in shelters of two FM transmitters each—one for BBG programming and another for Radio and Television Afghanistan. A third-party contractor prepares foundations and installs the shelters at their chosen locations. A U.S. firm provides generator packages. The station manager has found a contractor with the contacts and reliability to handle details on the ground in Afghanistan, which includes supplying fuel to generators (b) (5) without which that site would not be able to function. There is another local Afghan technical contractor to intervene should Biblis be unable to resolve issues remotely through its automated systems. The Kabul and Khost mediumwave transmitters each cover all of Afghanistan and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas as well as other areas bordering Afghanistan in Pakistan. Pakistan media laws prohibit foreign broadcasters from transmitting news from within Pakistan. The Khost transmitter and some of the FM transmitters transmit programming to Pashto speakers in those areas of Pakistan where the Taliban and Al Qaeda have been able to train and rest in a generally permissive environment and where local opinions of the United States and its policies are very low.

In Tajikistan, IBB leases a transmitter, but the IBB Germany Transmitting Station has also installed IBB transmitters at Orzu that are run by its own contractors. The signals from those transmitters cover all of Afghanistan and Pakistan. The primary audience language for the Orzu

transmitter is Urdu for Pakistan. Teams from the IBB Germany Transmitting Station have made as many as seven trips to Tajikistan to install and support that facility. The transmitter plant manager in Lampertheim speaks Russian and has traveled regularly to the Tajikistan site or communicated by telephone with the contractors there, where Russian is a working language in addition to Tajik.

In Cyprus, a French contractor operates the IBB mediumwave transmitter under the oversight of the IBB Germany Transmitting Station. That transmitter is for the Radio Sawa audience of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks in North Africa and in the Levant.

The IBB Germany Transmitting Station is a key link between the Middle East Broadcasting Networks headquarters in Springfield, Virginia, and the five Middle East News Bureaus (Baghdad, Beirut, Cairo, Dubai, and Jerusalem) of that network.³ Transmitting station staff monitors those news bureaus in real time and services their interactive feeds. Reports from those news bureaus are sent to Washington and Springfield via an optical fiber link across the Atlantic Ocean.

Another function of the IBB Germany Transmitting Station is automation of the global IBB network of transmitting stations. This is a role its own staff has carved out by developing and installing the technology that makes it possible. Employees have also assisted in converting IBB Transmitting Station transmitters to the energy-saving amplitude modulation companding mode. IBB's own transmitters are vintage models for which certain spare parts are no longer manufactured. The same applies to the antenna controller system. Station staff has addressed this by designing a replacement antenna controller system for the IBB shortwave slewable antennas. This antenna controller is used through the network. The original units cost \$7,000 each, whereas those designed and built by the IBB Germany Transmitting Station staff cost \$250 each. The station also provides this technology to other transmitting stations in the IBB network. In the past 2 years, teams from the station have automated or upgraded automation at IBB Transmitting Stations Botswana, Kuwait, Philippines, Djibouti, Sao Tome, and Tinian/Saipan. They maintain an average site availability of 99 percent at Lampertheim and Biblis.

Consulate General Frankfurt is a major regional platform. A part of that is its courier hub, which takes advantage of the transportation links. The IBB Germany Transmitting Station uses this capability to ship equipment to Office of Marketing and Program Placement affiliates in a number of countries. The station provides support to more than 90 affiliate stations throughout the Middle East, ranging from budget management and technical support to negotiations of bilateral agreements with the help of local U.S. embassies.

The OIG team did not travel to Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Cyprus, or other third country sites overseen or supported by the IBB Germany Transmitting Station. However, the

³ The IBB Germany Transmitting Station's Lampertheim site is the prime uplink for the Middle East Broadcasting Networks service for Middle East Broadcasting Networks News Bureaus and Middle East Broadcasting Networks Kabul. Systems are normally toggled each month so that Lampertheim uplinks Middle East Broadcasting Networks News Bureau feeds one month and Tinang Middle East Broadcasting Networks Kabul the alternate month. Because the Lampertheim DS3 (east fiber link) to IBB headquarters is more stable and reliable, Lampertheim often uplinks all feeds.

team did observe real-time monitoring of the Golden Eagle program, Middle East Broadcasting Networks News Bureaus, and other transmitting stations and sites. The OIG team also witnessed some of the station manager's telephone calls with contacts in Afghanistan and was kept informed of the key bargaining points of the most recent negotiation there. The inspection team also interviewed members of staff who were responsible for, or who traveled to, third country sites. In some instances they intervene remotely through automated systems they have installed. They also telephone and talk to people on site in third countries to resolve other problems, in addition to making actual trips as necessary.

Resource Management

The IBB Germany Transmitting Station is highly efficient. It performs complex functions and tasks and maintains an expanded broadcasting hours workload with a fraction of the workforce that was required years ago. For example, at the time of the last OIG inspection, there were 3 Foreign Service officers and 71 LE staff. Automation allowed reducing the number of shifts from three to one. Site security upgrades are ongoing and are addressed in the Security section of this report. IBB no longer needs the land at the Erching site and is in the process of selling that property. The station manager and his family live in U.S. Government-owned housing on one of the Consulate General Frankfurt compounds. Although staff size is adequate, some staff members work regular overtime for which they receive compensatory time off. To perform automation installations or upgrades at other IBB transmitting stations, small teams must spend weeks away from the IBB Germany Transmitting Station. Such was the case during the inspection, when the OIG team was unable to interview employees who were performing an automation upgrade at the IBB Philippines Transmitting Station.

Resource Profile

The IBB Germany Transmitting Station has the following resources:

- FY 2011 estimated budget of \$14 million.
- Staff of 1 U.S. officer, 17 LE staff, and 2 personal services agreement employees. (A second officer position is authorized but unfilled.)
- Assets valued at \$36.4 million, including the following:
 - 16 shortwave transmitters
 - Antennas and receiver equipment
 - Satellite Interconnect System
 - Buildings
 - Power equipment, generators, and switch gear
 - Fuel tanks and other structures
 - Optical fiber link
 - Land at Erching site

Source: Transmitting Station Manager – Data as of June 27, 2011.

Human Resources

The closing of the IBB site in Ismaning resulted in consolidation of personnel and functions at the IBB Germany Transmitting Station sites in Lampertheim and Biblis. Administrative responsibilities therefore fall largely to two employees, who still manage to deliver adequate services. Although the staff is experienced, knowledgeable, and capable, it is hard pressed to maintain the proper separation of duties and keep up with a workload that focuses primarily on procurement and property management. IBB relies upon International Cooperative Administrative Support Services (ICASS) providers for other services, including financial management, human resources, and procurement. Notwithstanding its general

satisfaction with ICASS service providers, station management expressed concern that the Computer Aided Job Evaluation system may not properly grade mixed technical positions such as those for transmitting station personnel.

Property Management

Transmitting station staff maintains adequate control of nonexpendable property by using the Property Inventory Processing System and applying the standard for entry into the database as items valued at or exceeding \$5,000 or for computer equipment regardless of value. Of the 608 items in the system, the annual inventory accounted for all but 2, which translates into a shortage of 0.02 percent of the total \$24,441,000 inventory. The LE staff responsible for property management maintains a file with photographs of each item to facilitate identification, particularly of technical equipment. The transmitting station also supplies equipment, mostly receivers, to field affiliates on a limited basis. The responsible technician receives instructions from IBB's Prague Marketing and Program Placement Office and fills the orders. He uses, and shares with the Prague office, a spreadsheet that tracks orders, shipping, destination, and delivery, thereby providing some oversight and internal controls.

Procurement

Procurement is a major function of the administrative section and interfaces relatively well with ICASS financial and supply chain management functions. The office uses the full range of procurement options, including Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity contracts, purchase orders, and purchase cards. A spot check of purchase order files yielded generally positive results, though the OIG inspection team noted some discrepancies, notably in the area of competition. As a result of the shortage of administrative personnel and in order to save time, requestors are not only suggesting a vendor but also conducting the procurement competition. This practice does not provide adequate separation of duties or internal controls.

Recommendation 1: The International Broadcasting Bureau Germany Transmitting Station should implement a procurement process that adequately separates requestor and procurement duties to meet internal controls requirements. (Action: IBB Germany Transmitting Station)

Value-Added Tax

The IBB Germany Transmitting Station is still functioning under an unacceptable VAT processing situation that OIG identified during its previous inspection in 2004. That report found that the IBB Germany Transmitting Station was then paying more than \$500,000 annually in VAT for which it received no reimbursements, although it was entitled to receive them.⁴ Embassy Berlin's efforts to resolve the situation were unsuccessful. There is in effect a statute of limitations on VAT refunds such that legislation would be required to honor refund requests dating back more than 5 years. During its Washington survey, the OIG inspection brought together the director of the IBB Office of Engineering and Technical Operations, his deputy for Transmitting Station technical operations, other IBB staff, and a member of the BBG Office of

⁴ *The International Broadcasting Bureau's Germany Transmitting Station*, Report number IBO-I-04-10, September 2004, p. 11.

General Counsel with the Department's Office of Foreign Missions, and a member of the Office of the Legal Adviser to review the status of the situation and to outline a strategy for going forward. Both the Office of the Legal Adviser and the Office of Foreign Missions believed that the ARBIE Agreement, rather than the Vienna Diplomatic and Consular Convention, was key but that both the IBB Germany Transmitting Station and the relevant German ministries would have to regularize payment of VAT and honoring of VAT refund submissions through Embassy Berlin.

What the OIG inspection team found in the field was in line with previous interagency advice on the matter: evidence that VAT refund requests had not been submitted since last refused in 2006 by the Ministry of Finance, notwithstanding a pro-embassy position by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and partially successful attempts to avoid paying VAT to vendors in the first instance. This last tactic put pressure on the compliant vendors from auditing tax authorities, which the transmitting station then settled with in order to maintain relationships with suppliers. In FY 2009, for example, \$432,996 was obligated for VAT, of which \$248,031 was paid to vendors who would not recognize the ARBIE Agreement. Part of the balance was held in reserve to respond to future claims from vendors audited by German tax authorities who then petition the station for back VAT payments that they did not collect at the time a good or service was provided. Between FYs 2006 and 2010, \$2,369,989 was obligated for VAT, of which \$1,512,728 was paid out but not refunded. The total VAT that has been set aside in that period for possible claims is \$852,145.

Recommendation 2: Embassy Berlin, in coordination with the Office of Foreign Missions, the International Broadcasting Bureau, and the International Broadcasting Bureau Germany Transmitting Station should demarche the Foreign Ministry and Ministry of Finance to get recognition of duty and tax exemptions already granted by previous agreements and seek clarification of the procedure for successful submission of requests for the refund of value-added taxes paid. (Action: Embassy Berlin, in coordination with OFM, IBB, and IBB Germany Transmitting Station)

Information Management

The IBB Germany Transmitting Station has two distinctly separate information technology (IT) operations supporting its transmission automation and administrative functions. The scope of this OIG inspection is limited to the latter.

The administrative IT operation is adequate, but it needs management's attention in the areas of standard systems administration procedures, standard systems configuration, and systems staff training. The infrastructure supporting the administrative network is located at the Lampertheim and Biblis sites. The network is composed of routers, switches, and servers for email, files, and applications. One full-time LE systems administrator manages the network. The administrator receives remote support from Washington when needed but handles the day-to-day systems maintenance duties, such as account creation, systems backup, and log reviews. The Washington IT staff conducts remote network monitoring, patch management, and configuration updates.

The OIG inspection team noted that the default systems administrator account was being used to administer the system; a generic account was used to allow guests access to the network; hardware and software configurations were not adequately tracked; the permissions restriction on shared folders was not consistently applied; and system logs were not reviewed daily. These practices create vulnerabilities and compromise the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of the network. For example, using the default systems administrator account for day-to-day systems management allows for misuse of the account, and it weakens management control in terms of accountability. Also, not restricting the folders permissions on a need-to-know basis affects information confidentiality. If systems logs are not reviewed frequently, potential systems issues will not be addressed in a timely fashion. Once the OIG inspection team highlighted these issues, the LE systems administrator immediately took some remediation actions.

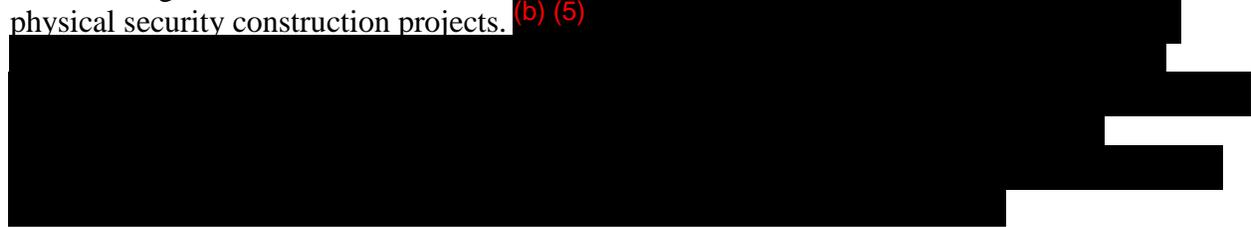
Recommendation 3: The International Broadcasting Bureau Germany Transmitting Station should develop and implement standard operating procedures for administering, configuring, and maintaining the station's administrative network. (Action: IBB Germany Transmitting Station)

The LE staff has not received formal training in areas of information security and network administration. Further, there are no standard systems administrations procedures and systems configurations guidelines for the staff to follow. Standardized and consistent systems management is vital for business continuity and information security. To accomplish these, staff members must be adequately trained for their assigned duties. Additionally, systems administration processes and procedures have to be established, implemented, and documented.

Recommendation 4: The International Broadcasting Bureau Germany Transmitting Station should develop and implement an information technology training plan for locally employed systems staff. (Action: IBB Germany Transmitting Station)

Security

Regional security office (RSO) Frankfurt provides security support to the IBB Germany Transmitting Station sites at Biblis and Lampertheim. The Biblis site is undergoing several physical security construction projects. (b) (5)



The station manager reported that he receives timely support from RSO Frankfurt, whose regional security officer has planned and conducted several drills at both sites. The manager has acted on advice from RSO Frankfurt and moved the safe haven to a more appropriate location and brought it up to applicable security standards. There are also plans to install a bathroom in the safe haven.

The station manager works with RSOs in third countries where the station oversees IBB operations. The security annex to the Embassy Berlin inspection report contains relevant information and recommendations pertaining to those operations.

The guards do not have imminent danger notification system (IDNS) pendants. Instead, they use cell phones, radios, and a loud speaker in the event of an emergency. There are currently no plans to install an IDNS system.

The fencing and lighting project for the Lampertheim site is complete. The CCTV there provides adequate coverage to the compound. The guards at the Lampertheim site also do not have IDNS pendants but have devised a system using radios and a loud speaker to contact everyone during an emergency. (b) (5)



Housing is provided at the Carl Schurz Siedlung residential compound located approximately 2 miles southwest of the Consulate General Frankfurt compound. The residential compound has 392 apartments in 31 free-standing, 3-story apartment buildings. Most of the consulate's direct-hire personnel also reside there. The perimeter of the compound is ringed with antivehicle bollards. Security is provided by the local guard force and is augmented by local police. Residential security is adequate.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1: The International Broadcasting Bureau Germany Transmitting Station should implement a procurement process that adequately separates requestor and procurement duties to meet internal controls requirements. (Action: IBB Germany Transmitting Station)

Recommendation 2: Embassy Berlin, in coordination with the Office of Foreign Missions, the International Broadcasting Bureau, and the International Broadcasting Bureau Germany Transmitting Station should demarche the Foreign Ministry and Ministry of Finance to get recognition of duty and tax exemptions already granted by previous agreements and seek clarification of the procedure for successful submission of requests for the refund of value-added taxes paid. (Action: Embassy Berlin, in coordination with OFM, IBB, and IBB Germany Transmitting Station)

Recommendation 3: The International Broadcasting Bureau Germany Transmitting Station should develop and implement standard operating procedures for administering, configuring, and maintaining the station's administrative network. (Action: IBB Germany Transmitting Station)

Recommendation 4: The International Broadcasting Bureau Germany Transmitting Station should develop and implement an information technology training plan for locally employed systems staff. (Action: IBB Germany Transmitting Station)

Principal Officials

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Arrival Date</i>
Station Manager	Michael R. Hardegen	08/17/2007

Abbreviations

BBG	Broadcasting Board of Governors
CCTV	Closed-circuit television
IBB	International Broadcasting Bureau
ICASS	International Cooperative Administrative Support Services
IDNS	Imminent danger notification system
IT	Information technology
LE	Locally employed
OIG	Office of Inspector General
RFE/RL	Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty
RSO	Regional security office
VAT	Value-added tax

Appendix: Target Audiences by Language and Location

IBB Germany Transmitting Station – Summer Broadcast Schedule

Biblis Site	Languages Broadcast	Target Area
Broadcast Customer		
RFE/RL	Azerbaijani	Russia
	Belarusian	Europe
	Kyrgyz	Central Asia
	Moldovan	Europe, SE Europe
	Russian	Russia
	Tajik	Central Asia
	Tibetan	Tibet
	Turkmen	Central Asia
	Uzbek	Central Asia
Including Radio Farda	Persian	Middle East
Voice of America	Albanian	SE Europe
	Azerbaijani	Caucasus
	Croatian	SE Europe
	Georgian	Caucasus
	Persian	Middle East
	Somali	East Africa
	Tibetan	Tibet
Radio Free Asia	Tibetan	Tibet

Source: IBB Germany Transmitting Station as of June 2011

IBB Germany Transmitting Station – Summer Broadcast Schedule

Lampertheim Site	Languages Broadcast	Target Area
Broadcast Customer		
RFE/RL	Avar, Chechen, Circassian	Caucasus
	Belarusian	Europe
	Azerbaijani	Caucasus
	Kazakh	Central Asia
	Russian	Russia, Central Asia
	Special Russian Program	Caucasus, South Asia
	Tajik	Central Asia
	Tatar-Bashkir	Russia
	Turkmen	Central Asia
	Uzbek	Central Asia
Including Radio Farda	Persian	Middle East
Voice of America	Deewa (Pashto)	Afghanistan, South Asia
	English	Middle East, Central Asia
	Georgian	Caucasus
	Kurdish	Middle East
	Persian	Middle East
	Somali	East Africa
	Tibetan	Tibet
Radio Free Asia	N/A	N/A

Source: IBB Germany Transmitting Station as of June 2011

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**FRAUD, WASTE, ABUSE,
OR MISMANAGEMENT**
of Federal programs hurts everyone.

Contact the
Office of Inspector General
HOTLINE
to report illegal or wasteful activities:

202-647-3320

800-409-9926

oighotline@state.gov

oig.state.gov

Office of Inspector General
U.S. Department of State
P.O. Box 9778
Arlington, VA 22219

Cables to the Inspector General
should be slugged "OIG Channel"
to ensure confidentiality.

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~