

Monthly Recommendations Report

February 26, 2021



Office of Inspector General

Department of State
U.S. Agency for Global Media
(USAGM)

Recommendation Status

As of February 26, 2021, the OIG Management Information System (MIS) reported the following recommendation counts:

		Unclassified	Sensitive and Classified	Total
Open	State	490	47*	577**
	USAGM	18	14	
Closed within Month	State	29	0*	29
	USAGM	0	0	
Newly Issued	State	3	3	6
	USAGM	0	0	

*Classified recommendations are not included in these totals because of delays in preparing classified materials due to OIG's effort to maximize telework and social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**This total includes the following recommendations associated with the IBWC: Open Sensitive: +8.

Recommendation Status Explained

Unresolved: No agreement between OIG and management on the recommendation or proposed corrective action (remains open).

Resolved: Agreement on the recommendation and proposed corrective action (remains open) but implementation has not been completed.

Closed: Agreed upon corrective action is complete.

Action Office: The organization to which a recommendation has been assigned for action.

Searching Explained

The recommendations are sorted alphabetically by action office, then by the date the report containing the recommendations was issued.

Use Ctrl+F within your internet browser to search for keywords within this PDF document.

Example searches:

- To find recommendations related to a particular bureau or office, type the name of that bureau or office. For example, "Office of the Deputy Secretary" or "Bureau of Diplomatic Security." [View the Department of State Organizational Chart](#) for more information on Department bureaus and offices.
- To find recommendations related to a particular embassy, type "Embassy" and the city in which the embassy is located. For example, "Embassy Berlin" or "Embassy Kabul."
- To find recommendations with a specific word or phrase, type the keyword. For example, "information technology" or "contracts."

Additional Information

- This report includes only unclassified information entered into our MIS system as of the last business day of the previous month. For example, the November report will include information in our system as of 4 P.M. on the last business day of November.
- Action office have up to 30 days after a report is issued to respond to newly issued recommendations.
- Questions? Contact the OIG [Office of Congressional and Public Affairs](#).

UNCLASSIFIED
U.S. Department of State - Office of Inspector General
Recommendations Closed in February 2021

Use CTRL+F to Enter Search Terms

#	ACTION OFFICE	REPORT NUMBER	REPORT TITLE	ISSUE DATE	REC NUMBER	RECOMMENDATION	REC STATUS	REC CLOSE DATE
1	Bureau of Diplomatic Security	AUD-SI-17-21	Audit of the Bureau of Diplomatic Security's Administration of the Armored Vehicle Program	2/10/2017	9	OIG recommends that the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, in coordination with the Bureau of Administration, develop and implement a centralized tool to track requests for armored vehicles. This tool should be able to maintain a complete list of requests and the status of the efforts to fulfill the requests.	Closed - Implemented	2/3/2021
2	Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs	ISP-I-20-15	Inspection of the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs	9/28/2020	2	The Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs should comply with Department guidelines for the minimum staffing and structure of offices.	Closed - Implemented	2/25/2021
3	Bureau of Global Talent Management	ESP-20-06	Evaluation of the Department's Handling of Sexual Harassment Reports	9/30/2020	6	OIG recommends that GTM, in conjunction with OCR and OSI, as well as other relevant stakeholders, develop and implement a common mechanism for tracking the length and outcomes (such as disciplinary actions) of sexual harassment allegations.	Closed - Implemented	2/4/2021
4	Bureau of Intelligence and Research	AUD-MERO-20-41	(U) Audit of Department of State Compliance With the Geospatial Data Act of 2018	9/18/2020	1	The Office of Inspector General recommends that the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, in coordination with and support from the Office of Management Strategy and Solutions and the Bureau of Information Resource Management, establish and implement an action plan and timeline for implementing each of the 13 covered agency responsibilities prescribed by the Geospatial Data Act of 2018, Section 759(a).	Closed - Implemented	2/3/2021
5	Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations	AUD-MERO-20-39	Audit of Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations Process To Identify and Apply Best Practices and Lessons Learned to Future Construction Projects	9/2/2020	1	OIG recommends that the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (a) review and update its draft 2012 Policy and Procedures Directive pertaining to its Lessons Learned Program for Technical Design to ensure the Directive meets the intent of the program and conforms with existing policy and (b) formally execute and disseminate the Directive in conjunction with applicable guidance to implement the lessons learned program and to consistently achieve its intended purpose.	Closed - Implemented	2/18/2021

UNCLASSIFIED
U.S. Department of State - Office of Inspector General
Recommendations Closed in February 2021

Use CTRL+F to Enter Search Terms

#	ACTION OFFICE	REPORT NUMBER	REPORT TITLE	ISSUE DATE	REC NUMBER	RECOMMENDATION	REC STATUS	REC CLOSE DATE
6	Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations	AUD-MERO-20-39	Audit of Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations Process To Identify and Apply Best Practices and Lessons Learned to Future Construction Projects	9/2/2020	2	OIG recommends that the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations capture, analyze, and disseminate broader best practices and lessons learned in constructing embassies throughout the bureau to address factors such as strengthening collaboration among stakeholders, facilitating building maintenance, and improving program and construction management. This could be achieved by either expanding the current lessons learned program or creating an additional program that focuses on other construction management activities.	Closed - Implemented	2/18/2021
7	Bureau of the Comptroller and Global Financial Services	AUD-MERO-19-40	Audit of the Execution of Security-Related Construction Projects at U.S. Embassy Kabul, Afghanistan	9/20/2019	13	OIG recommends that the Bureau of the Comptroller and Global Financial Services grant Financial Management Center staff at Embassy Kabul read-only access to the Global Financial Management System and that financial management staff at the Bureaus of Overseas Buildings Operations and Diplomatic Security be given read-only access to the Regional Financial Management System in order to facilitate the generation and reconciliation of data on physical security upgrade projects and expenditures.	Closed - Implemented	2/17/2021
8	Embassy Addis Ababa	ISP-I-18-18	Inspection of Embassy Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	5/25/2018	22	Embassy Addis Ababa, in coordination with the Bureau of Human Resources, should update and translate its Local Employee Handbook in accordance with Department guidance.	Closed - Implemented	2/11/2021
9	Embassy Bern	ISP-I-20-21	Inspection of Embassy Bern, Switzerland	5/11/2020	10	Embassy Bern should implement a records management program that complies with Department standards.	Closed - Implemented	2/18/2021
10	Embassy Djibouti	ISP-I-18-14	Inspection of Embassy Djibouti, Djibouti	4/18/2018	14	Embassy Djibouti, in coordination with Bureau of African Affairs, should implement a comprehensive program for updating locally employed staff position descriptions in accordance with Department standards.	Closed - Implemented	2/3/2021
11	Embassy Djibouti	ISP-I-18-14	Inspection of Embassy Djibouti, Djibouti	4/18/2018	22	Embassy Djibouti, in coordination with the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations, should establish and implement a plan to appropriately store flammable materials.	Closed - Implemented	2/3/2021

UNCLASSIFIED
U.S. Department of State - Office of Inspector General
Recommendations Closed in February 2021

Use CTRL+F to Enter Search Terms

#	ACTION OFFICE	REPORT NUMBER	REPORT TITLE	ISSUE DATE	REC NUMBER	RECOMMENDATION	REC STATUS	REC CLOSE DATE
12	Embassy Guatemala City	ISP-I-18-16	Inspection of Embassy Guatemala City, Guatemala	5/16/2018	21	Embassy Guatemala City should conduct annual tests of the information technology contingency plans for unclassified and classified networks in accordance with Department standards.	Closed - Implemented	2/18/2021
13	Embassy Prague	ISP-I-20-28	Inspection of Embassy Prague, Czech Republic	9/14/2020	1	Embassy Prague should bring consular fee collection practices into compliance with Department standards.	Closed - Implemented	2/16/2021
14	Embassy Prague	ISP-I-20-28	Inspection of Embassy Prague, Czech Republic	9/14/2020	6	Embassy Prague should comply with Department standards for records management.	Closed - Implemented	2/16/2021
15	Embassy Santo Domingo	ISP-I-19-17	Inspection of Embassy Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	7/1/2019	9	Embassy Santo Domingo should clear overdue travel advances in accordance with Department guidelines, and put up to \$55,020 to better use.	Closed - Implemented	2/18/2021
16	Embassy Santo Domingo	ISP-I-19-17	Inspection of Embassy Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	7/1/2019	12	Embassy Santo Domingo should comply with Department standards for its contracting officer's representatives.	Closed - Implemented	2/18/2021
17	Embassy Santo Domingo	ISP-I-19-17	Inspection of Embassy Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	7/1/2019	13	Embassy Santo Domingo should verify and document the monitoring and evaluation of its contracts in accordance with Department guidance.	Closed - Implemented	2/18/2021
18	Embassy Santo Domingo	ISP-I-19-17	Inspection of Embassy Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	7/1/2019	14	Embassy Santo Domingo should comply with all Department Overseas Motor Vehicle Safety Management Program requirements.	Closed - Implemented	2/18/2021
19	Embassy Yaounde	ISP-I-20-20	Inspection of Embassy Yaoundé, Cameroon	5/19/2020	2	Embassy Yaoundé, in coordination with the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations, should provide protection from the elements for consular applicants, in accordance with Department standards.	Closed - Implemented	2/23/2021
20	Office of Acquisitions Management	AUD-MERO-18-31	Management Assistance Report: Cost Controls for Food Services Supporting Department of State Operations in Iraq Require Attention	3/5/2018	12	OIG recommends that the Bureau of Administration, Office of Logistics Management, Office of Acquisitions Management (a) determine whether the \$4.1 million in questioned costs for unauthorized meals paid to PAE Government Services, Inc. under Baghdad Life Support Services contract SAQMMA13D0120 food services task order SAQMMA14F0721 as identified by OIG are allowable and (b) recover any costs determined to be unallowable.	Closed - Implemented	2/17/2021

UNCLASSIFIED
U.S. Department of State - Office of Inspector General
Recommendations Closed in February 2021

Use CTRL+F to Enter Search Terms

#	ACTION OFFICE	REPORT NUMBER	REPORT TITLE	ISSUE DATE	REC NUMBER	RECOMMENDATION	REC STATUS	REC CLOSE DATE
21	Office of the Procurement Executive	AUD-MERO-18-31	Management Assistance Report: Cost Controls for Food Services Supporting Department of State Operations in Iraq Require Attention	3/5/2018	13	OIG recommends that, if the Bureau of Administration, Office of Logistics Management, Office of Acquisitions Management does not seek reimbursement for \$4.1 million in unauthorized meals paid to PAE Government Services, Inc. in response to Recommendation 12, the Procurement Executive at the Bureau of Administration, Office of the Procurement Executive implement ratification procedures in accordance with Department of State Acquisition Regulations 601.602-3-70, "[Ratification] Procedures," for Baghdad Life Support Services contract SAQMMA13D0120 food services task order SAQMMA14F0721.	Closed - Implemented	2/17/2021
22	Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons	AUD-MERO-19-39	Audit of Monitoring and Evaluating Department of State Foreign Assistance in the Philippines	9/20/2019	8	OIG recommends that the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (J/TIP) determine whether the objective to "provide short-term emergency shelter for up to 44 minor boys and girls with a high/therapeutic caregiver to child ratio" in the Protecting At-risk children Vulnerable to Exploitation cooperative agreement should be revised. If so, J/TIP should request that the Grants Officer (a) update the cooperative agreement accordingly and (b) ensure that the amount of funding disbursed to the award recipient is consistent with the services received.	Closed - Implemented	2/1/2021
23	Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons	AUD-MERO-19-39	Audit of Monitoring and Evaluating Department of State Foreign Assistance in the Philippines	9/20/2019	18	OIG recommends that the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons review the Protecting At-risk children Vulnerable to Exploitation cooperative agreement and correct any deficiencies identified with the budget amendment processes, such as requiring all amendments to be approved and signed in the State Assistance Management System.	Closed - Implemented	2/1/2021
24	Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons	AUD-MERO-19-39	Audit of Monitoring and Evaluating Department of State Foreign Assistance in the Philippines	9/20/2019	22	OIG recommends that the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (a) conduct a review of all expenditures invoiced under the Protecting At-risk children Vulnerable to Exploitation cooperative agreement to date and (b) identify and recover all expenditures determined to be unallowable.	Closed - Implemented	2/1/2021

UNCLASSIFIED
U.S. Department of State - Office of Inspector General
Recommendations Closed in February 2021

Use CTRL+F to Enter Search Terms

#	ACTION OFFICE	REPORT NUMBER	REPORT TITLE	ISSUE DATE	REC NUMBER	RECOMMENDATION	REC STATUS	REC CLOSE DATE
25	U.S. Mission to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva	ISP-I-20-16	Inspection of U.S. Mission to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, Switzerland	6/10/2020	10	Mission Geneva, in coordination with the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations, should establish a corrective action plan to either mitigate the risk at existing residences or relocate employees to residences that meet Department fire standards.	Closed - Implemented	2/11/2021
26	U.S. Mission to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva	ISP-I-20-16	Inspection of U.S. Mission to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, Switzerland	6/10/2020	14	Mission Geneva should direct the American Government Employee Association board to meet its oversight responsibilities, in compliance with Department standards.	Closed - Implemented	2/11/2021
27	U.S. Mission to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva	ISP-I-20-16	Inspection of U.S. Mission to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, Switzerland	6/10/2020	16	Mission Geneva should stop leasing computer equipment for visiting officials.	Closed - Implemented	2/11/2021
28	U.S. Mission to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva	ISP-I-20-16	Inspection of U.S. Mission to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, Switzerland	6/10/2020	17	Mission Geneva should require its local Information Technology Configuration Control Board to comply with Department standards.	Closed - Implemented	2/11/2021
29	U.S. Mission to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva	ISP-I-20-16	Inspection of U.S. Mission to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva, Switzerland	6/10/2020	18	Mission Geneva should complete information technology contingency plans for the unclassified and classified networks and test the plans in accordance with Department standards.	Closed - Implemented	2/18/2021