



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AND THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Summary of the OIG Report on the Department's Implementation of Mantraps

Office of Inspector General Report ISP-I-09-29, February 2009

Background

At 11:16 a.m. on December 6, 2004, terrorists attacked the U.S. Consulate Jeddah on foot through a vehicle gate that had been opened to allow an authorized vehicle to enter. The Accountability Review Board that subsequently studied the attack noted that while the security systems and procedures in place at the consulate met official Department standards, these standards were inadequate to prevent this type of attack.

This deadly incident prompted the Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS), in coordination with the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO) to initiate a program to install pedestrian barriers, or “mantraps,” at all diplomatic posts worldwide. These mantraps—or anti-climb, fenced-in enclosures—installed at vehicle entrances are intended to prevent unauthorized persons from entering the compound during vehicle inspections and gate operations.

Office of Inspector General Review

The objective of the 2009 Office of Inspector General (OIG) review was to assess the Department's progress towards the installation of mantraps at U.S. diplomatic posts worldwide. The review was conducted through interviews with Department officials and a survey questionnaire that was sent to all U.S. overseas posts.

The OIG team found that although a working group had been formed in 2005 to develop mantrap security standards and standards had been drafted, as of 2008 these draft standards had yet to be approved. OBO had, however, developed mantrap specifications and had included them in its International Building Code physical security code supplement and into the OBO Master Guide specification to be used in the construction of new embassy compounds and major physical

security upgrades. Furthermore, OBO had been working with individual posts to help with post-managed mantrap projects at these posts' request.

In July 2008 the OIG team disseminated a survey questionnaire to all posts worldwide to assess overseas posts' progress in implementing mantraps. OIG received 180 responses, which represented slightly more than 68 percent of the approximately 263 U.S. diplomatic posts worldwide. This survey found that while mantraps had been installed at most of the high and critical threat posts, the results were less than satisfactory at posts rated low and medium threat. The factors that contributed to the smaller number of mantrap installations at low and medium threat posts were the lack of obligatory standards for mantraps and the lack of recent Department guidance. Accordingly, the team's report contained the following recommendation:

“The Bureau of Diplomatic Security should determine when the Overseas Security Policy Board security standards for mantraps will be issued, and if that is more than 60 days from the issuance of this report, the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, in coordination with the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations, should issue a Security Officer Collective cable with guidance regarding the requirement for mantraps at posts worldwide and the procedures to be followed for their installation.”