



# HIGHLIGHTS

Office of Inspector General  
United States Department of State

AUD-SI-21-13

## What OIG Audited

The Department of State (Department) operates a worldwide fleet of motor vehicles to support its global diplomatic mission. According to the Department's records, the overseas unarmored vehicle fleet consisted of 8,602 vehicles as of September 30, 2019, with an acquisition cost of about \$300 million. The Department's Bureau of Administration, and specifically the Overseas Fleet Division (OF), is responsible for the development, implementation, and oversight of policy and regulations governing the Department's overseas vehicle fleet.

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) conducted this audit to determine whether the Bureau of Administration administered the Department's overseas motor vehicle fleet in accordance with Federal guidelines and Department policy. OIG also determined whether selected overseas posts acquired, accounted for, used, maintained, and disposed of motor vehicles in accordance with applicable policy and guidelines. OIG conducted audit fieldwork at U.S. Embassies Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; Georgetown, Guyana; Vienna, Austria; Tbilisi, Georgia; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; and Maputo, Mozambique.

## What OIG Recommends

OIG made 21 recommendations to address the deficiencies identified in the unarmored overseas motor vehicle program. On the basis of management's response to a draft of this report, OIG considers 20 recommendations resolved, pending further action, and 1 recommendation unresolved. A synopsis of management's response to the recommendations is offered and OIG's reply follow each recommendation in the Results section of this report. Management's response to a draft of this report is reprinted in its entirety in Appendices E through H.

January 2021

OFFICE OF AUDITS

SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

## Audit of the Department of State's Unarmored Overseas Motor Vehicle Fleet

### What OIG Found

OF is not administering the unarmored overseas vehicle program in accordance with Department policies and guidelines. Specifically, OIG found that OF has not developed and implemented an internal control environment to successfully fulfill its role and responsibilities, as outlined in the Department's Foreign Affairs Manual (FAM). Those responsibilities include managing the acquisition, use, maintenance, and disposal of the Department's unarmored overseas vehicle fleet.

OIG surveyed posts worldwide and found that 10 percent of the 125 posts that responded had more vehicles than were needed, while 6 percent stated they did not have enough vehicles to support their diplomatic mission. In addition, according to the Department's own analysis provided in May 2019, 167 of 271 posts (62 percent) had more vehicles than allowed based on each post's target fleet size. Furthermore, OIG conducted work at six posts and found that the posts did not always obtain, or obtain in a timely manner, waivers from OF to procure vehicles locally; properly track vehicles in the Department's inventory system; document daily vehicle usage; sufficiently maintain vehicles in their possession; or dispose of vehicles in accordance with Department requirements.

These deficiencies occurred, in part, because OF has not developed and communicated a structured, detailed vehicle program plan or standard operating procedures to help manage the Department's overseas vehicle fleet. In addition, OF has not established and implemented processes to obtain reliable data regarding its vehicle fleet or established a methodology to enforce overseas post compliance with applicable fleet management guidelines. Until these deficiencies are addressed, OF will remain incapable of effectively executing its role in strategically planning and overseeing the unarmored overseas motor vehicle program and will be unable to ensure compliance with Federal guidelines and Department policies governing its unarmored overseas vehicle fleet.