



HIGHLIGHTS

Office of Inspector General
United States Department of State

ESP-19-06

What OIG Evaluated

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) conducted this evaluation in response to an OIG hotline complaint. The complaint alleged that the Department was providing Explosive Detection Canines (EDCs) to foreign partner nations without the proper follow-up to ensure they were receiving adequate healthcare. These allegations also included reports that dogs were dying due to various medical conditions, lack of veterinary care, and poor working conditions. As a result, OIG initiated this evaluation to determine whether the Department effectively managed the health and welfare of dogs in the Explosive Detection Canine Program (EDCP).

What OIG Recommends

OIG made five recommendations to the Department: to develop and implement a strategic plan that addresses the health and welfare of canines in the Kingdom of Jordan; conduct follow-up health and welfare checks more frequently; develop and implement a plan to address canine retirement and adoption; develop and negotiate written agreements related to the canine program with partner nations; and develop and implement policies and procedures for all aspects of the canine program, including health and welfare. As part of the first recommendation, OIG also recommends that the Department cease providing canines to Jordan until there is a sustainability plan in place to ensure canine health and welfare. The Department concurred with four recommendations in their entirety and partially concurred with another. It did not agree with the portion of the recommendation that advised ceasing to provide dogs to Jordan until a sustainability plan is in place.

SEPTEMBER 2019

OFFICE OF EVALUATIONS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

Evaluation of the Antiterrorism Assistance Explosive Detection Canine Program – Health and Welfare

What OIG Found

Pursuant to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, the Department's antiterrorism assistance program provides EDCs to foreign countries to enhance the ability of their law enforcement to deter and counter terrorism. The Bureau of Diplomatic Security's Office of Antiterrorism Assistance (DS/ATA) is the primary implementer of foreign assistance training and partners with the Bureau of Counterterrorism to manage the program. Although the Department previously relied on the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms to provide both dogs and training, the Department recently established its own canine training program at the Canine Validation Center (CVC). As of September 30, 2018, 100 active EDCs trained at CVC had been provided under the antiterrorism program to 6 partner nations; in addition, approximately 70 dogs from the ATF program remained active in 7 nations.

OIG identified a range of problems in the EDCP. First, OIG found an overall lack of policies and standards governing the program. The Department routinely provides dogs to foreign partners without signed written agreements that outline standards for minimum care, retirement, and use of the canines, and the Department conducts health and welfare follow-ups infrequently and inconsistently. Second, OIG confirmed ongoing concerns regarding the program in Jordan, where health and welfare problems have persisted for years. Nonetheless, the Department provided EDCs to this nation before those concerns were resolved. Additionally, the Department did not adequately plan to ensure that Jordan's canine program could become self-sustaining or that funding will be consistently available to protect the dogs already provided. Finally, the Department could not provide detailed information about dogs in programs other than Jordan.