



# HIGHLIGHTS

Office of Inspector General  
United States Department of State

ISP-I-19-20

## What OIG Inspected

OIG inspected the executive direction, program and policy implementation, and resource management operations of Embassy Paramaribo.

## What OIG Recommends

OIG made 18 recommendations: 17 to Embassy Paramaribo and 1 to the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations.

In its comments on the draft report, the Department concurred with 17 recommendations and disagreed with 1. OIG considers the 18 recommendations resolved. The Department's response to each recommendation, and OIG's reply, can be found in the Recommendations section of this report. The Department's formal written responses are reprinted in their entirety in Appendix B.

July 2019

OFFICE OF INSPECTIONS

BUREAU OF WESTERN HEMISPHERE AFFAIRS

## Inspection of Embassy Paramaribo, Suriname

### What OIG Found

- Embassy Paramaribo, between ambassadors at the time of the inspection, was led by a Chargé d'Affaires, who was accessible and visible throughout the embassy. He set a positive tone for the embassy and communicated his priorities well.
- The Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations had not repaired leaks in the roofs of the chancery and warehouse on the new embassy compound, which were creating a health hazard for employees because of the mold that had formed.
- The embassy had multiple internal control deficiencies in general services, facilities management, human resources, and financial management operations.
- Embassy Paramaribo did not meet requirements for its local compensation plan, which resulted in incorrect salaries and retirement contributions for 32 locally employed staff.
- The embassy operated two wireless networks without the security controls necessary to protect the Department of State's networks and prevent the potential compromise of information.
- Spotlight on Success: Embassy Paramaribo hosted a conference for all International Law Enforcement Academy course graduates from the previous year to provide feedback on what they learned and how they put their new skills to work.
- Spotlight on Success: The Public Diplomacy Section successfully used a film festival to reach a large audience on a variety of issues, ranging from religious freedom to civil rights to women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics fields, and other aspects of U.S. society and culture.