



HIGHLIGHTS

Office of Inspector General
United States Department of State

ISP-I-19-26

What OIG Inspected

OIG conducted a targeted inspection of the executive direction, foreign assistance coordination, consular services, resource management, and information management of Embassy Tirana.

What OIG Recommends

OIG made 10 recommendations: 9 to Embassy Tirana and 1 to the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations.

In its comments on the draft report, the Department concurred with all 10 recommendations. OIG considers all 10 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.

August 2019

OFFICE OF INSPECTIONS

BUREAU OF EUROPEAN AND EURASIAN AFFAIRS

Inspection of Embassy Tirana, Albania

What OIG Found

- Embassy Tirana's Chargé d'Affaires and acting Deputy Chief of Mission formed a collaborative team committed to developing a positive working atmosphere for the embassy. However, they did not adjust their working relationship and division of labor to better share policy management responsibilities when their roles became long-term rather than temporary.
- Embassy section and agency heads reported that interagency collaboration and cooperation were excellent.
- Foreign assistance activities were well aligned with priority policy goals, and the embassy was taking steps to strengthen coordination and manage the effect of a U.S. Agency for International Development drawdown in Albania.
- The Consular Section's strong teamwork allowed it to maintain high performance despite staff shortages, but some improvements were needed to the section's accessibility, line-of-sight control, and signage.
- The embassy lacked seismic and safety mitigation plans for some chancery and residential properties.