



# HIGHLIGHTS

Office of Inspector General  
United States Department of State

ISP-I-21-23

## **(U) What OIG Inspected**

(U) OIG inspected the executive direction, policy implementation, foreign assistance management, resource management, and information management operations of the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs.

## **(U) What OIG Recommends**

(U) OIG made 12 recommendations to the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs.

(U) In its comments on the draft report, the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs concurred with 9 recommendations and disagreed with 3 recommendations. OIG considers 9 recommendations resolved and 3 recommendations unresolved. The Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs' response to each recommendation, and OIG's reply, can be found in the Recommendations section of this report. The bureau's formal written response is reprinted in its entirety in Appendix B.

**(U) August 2021**

**(U) OFFICE OF INSPECTIONS**

**(U) DOMESTIC OPERATIONS**

## **(U) Inspection of the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs**

### **(U) What OIG Found**

- (U) The Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs successfully supported Department of State policies.
- (U) Frequent leadership changes and vacancies within the bureau had an adverse effect on employee effectiveness and morale.
- (U) Bureau leadership successfully handled the management challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and working in a maximum telework environment.
- (U) The bureau did not have clearly specified roles and responsibilities for coordinating Arctic issues with the Office of the U.S. Coordinator for the Arctic Region.
- (U) Chronic understaffing impeded the mission of the Office of Space and Advanced Technology.
- (U) The bureau lacked procedures to systematically identify and reclassify foreign assistance funds which led to the return of nearly \$5.4 million in canceled foreign assistance funds to the Department of the Treasury.
- (U) Spotlight on Success: The bureau made effective use of online platforms to support U.S. international environmental priorities.
- (U) Spotlight on Success: The bureau's efforts secured international support to build a \$10 billion supercollider project in Japan.