



U.S. Embassy Freetown, Sierra Leone

October 2021

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Department’s Bureau of Administration recently announced new requirements regarding records management training as a result of an OIG recommendation. A mandatory training course, “Records Management for Everyone (PK.217),” must be completed annually by all Department personnel who create Department records in support of the Department’s mission, including those who do not have access to OpenNet on an annual basis. The July 2021 report, *Audit of Department of State Protocols for Establishing and Operating Remote Diplomatic Missions (AUD-MERO-21-33)*, found lapses in records management training, archiving of official correspondence, and other issues. An OIG recommendation to address the training lapse resulted in a cable being sent to all diplomatic and consular posts to serve as interim guidance while the Foreign Affairs Manual is updated to reflect the new policy.

In October 2021, former business executives [Larisa Khariton and Jon Clark pleaded guilty](#) to conspiracy to defraud and commit offenses against the United States. Homeland Security Investigations, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, and OIG special agents determined the executives enriched themselves by participating in a scheme to recruit and hire noncitizen laborers who were unauthorized to work in the United States. Khariton and Clark admitted that they engaged in deceitful and dishonest conduct to impede and obstruct the functioning of the H-2 non-immigrant visa program. Sentencing is pending.

In October 2021, [Wanda Baker pled guilty](#) to engaging in monetary transactions in property derived from specified unlawful activity, approximately 1 month after co-conspirator Olayinka Agboola plead guilty to the same charge. Sentencing is pending. A year earlier (October 2020), Barker, Agboola, and Linda Johnson were indicted for using a business email compromise scheme to defraud the Department. OIG and FBI special agents determined the individuals tricked the Department and a non-profit agency into wiring at least \$575,000 into bank accounts they controlled for the purpose of enriching themselves and their co-conspirators.

In October 2021, John J. Przybyla, the former owner of a sub-contracting company, was sentenced to 24 months of probation, 500 hours of community service, a \$30,000 fine, and \$100 assessment for conspiracy to violate the anti-kickback act. Previously, in September 2021, Elmer Baker was sentenced for his role in the scheme to overbill a General Services Administration (GSA) contract for work performed on a Department facility. GSA, FBI, and OIG special agents determined Baker began receiving kickbacks from Przybyla in the form of meals and vacations in exchange for steering work to

RECOMMENDATIONS STATUS

as of October 29, 2021

589*

Open
Recommendations

47**

Recommendations
Closed During October

[View Latest Monthly Recommendation Reports](#)

*Classified recommendations are not included in these totals since their status is currently unavailable due to COVID-19 remote working conditions. This total also includes 26 recommendations associated with IBWC.

**This total includes 4 recommendations associated with IBWC.

Przybyla’s company on the multimillion-dollar GSA project. Baker later began demanding monetary kickbacks and tried to cover his tracks by sending the subcontractor fake invoices to make it appear as though payments were for legitimate work.

In October 2021, a Diplomatic Security special agent was issued an admonishment and warning memo for accessing an electronic investigative database and disclosing sensitive information to individuals without an official need.

SPOTLIGHTS ON SUCCESS

Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Establishes Framework to Manage Performance (*Inspection of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, [ISP-I-22-01](#)*)

The Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (J/TIP) actively used its Functional Bureau Strategy to align objectives with resources and to establish a framework to manage the office’s performance. In addition, the office created a working group to integrate the Department’s Managing for Results framework into its activities to assess progress toward strategic objectives. Notably, J/TIP had updated its Functional Bureau Strategy sub-objectives incrementally since 2018 while maintaining its core activities centered around the “3Ps”— prevention, protection, and prosecutions—a strategic paradigm from the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. The updates reflected an analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats within the office’s mission environment. J/TIP also established a new position charged with educating its workforce on Department monitoring requirements and to standardize

practices in this area. An annual strategic review with emphasis on performance also resulted in the development of common performance indicators.

NEW WORK STARTED

- *Audit of Internal Controls Over Procurement at U.S. Embassy Freetown, Sierra Leone*

REPORTS ISSUED

- *Audit Requirements for Federal Financial Statements, we are providing the *Independent Accountant's Report on the Application of Agreed-Upon Procedures: Employee Benefits, Withholdings, Contributions, and Supplemental Semiannual Headcount Reporting Submitted to the Office of Personnel Management* ([AUD-FM-22-02](#))*
- *Audit of Noncompetitive Contracts in Support of Overseas Contingency Operations in Afghanistan and Iraq* ([AUD-MERO-22-03](#))
- *Audit of the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, U.S. Section, FY 2021 Information Security Program* (AUD-IT-22-04)*
- *Audit of the U.S. Agency for Global Media FY 2021 Information Security Program* (AUD-IT-IB-22-05)*
- *Audit of the Department of State FY 2021 Information Security Program* (AUD-IT-22-06)*
- *Inspection of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons* ([ISP-I-22-01](#))
- *Inspection of Embassy Reykjavik, Iceland* ([ISP-I-22-02](#))

*Sensitive But Unclassified



The Office of Inspector General conducts independent oversight of the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for Global Media on behalf of American taxpayers to:

- Promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness.
- Prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse.
- Identify vulnerabilities and recommend constructive solutions.

Report waste, fraud, or abuse 24 hours a day to the OIG hotline: www.stateoig.gov/HOTLINE