MAKING A DIFFERENCE

In response to a 2020 report, Inspection of Embassy Windhoek, Namibia (ISP-I-20-32), the embassy provided additional documentation showing the sale of proceeds in the amount of $12,198 for the disposal of two vehicles by auction. OIG had recommended that the embassy bring its motor vehicle fleet operations into compliance with Department standards.

In response to a recommendation in a 2018 report, Inspection of Embassy Nairobi, Kenya (ISP-I-19-08), the embassy provided documentation showing a full accounting of auctions and disposals of expendable property that resulted in putting $1,789,653 to better use. OIG had recommended that the embassy conduct a utilization survey and sell or dispose of excess inventory in accordance with Department standards and put up to $14 million to better use.

In April 2021, two businesses and nine of their officers and managers located across the country were indicted for their roles in an alleged conspiracy to defraud the U.S. Government and commit various fraud and criminal immigration offenses for profit. OIG and special agents from Homeland Security Investigations and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services determined that, from an unknown date through May 2017, the defendants enriched themselves by participating in a scheme to recruit and hire noncitizen laborers. The defendants allegedly entered into contracts to provide hospitality-related businesses with lawful laborers to work in housekeeping, retail, and food service positions; however, they filled those positions with noncitizens who were not authorized to work in the United States.

In April 2021, three individuals were each debarred 3 years for submitting false claims to grant officials while supporting two grants in Afghanistan. OIG special agents determined that from June 2016 to June 2017, the individuals inflated employee salaries by over $26,000 in support of a grant that was meant to help the Afghan government develop a national strategy for countering violent extremism. In addition, they claimed approximately $147,000 for services performed under a grant meant to provide media communication training for Afghan women and politicians; however, the services were never provided.

RECOMMENDATIONS STATUS
as of April 30, 2021

550* Open Recommendations
56 Recommendations Closed During April

View Latest Monthly Recommendation Reports

*Classified recommendations are not included in these totals because of delays in preparing classified materials due to OIG’s effort to maximize telework and social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic. This total includes the following recommendations associated with the IBWC: Open Sensitive: +30

NEW WORK STARTED

- Inspection of the Bureau of Administration, Office of the Executive Director
- Inspection of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons
- Inspection of the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs
- Inspection of the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, Office of Protection
- Targeted Inspection of the Bureau of Consular Affairs, Office of Consular Systems and Technology’s ConsularOne Program
- Inspection of U.S. Consulate General Curaçao
- Inspection of Embassy Reykjavik, Iceland
- Inspection of Embassy Luxembourg, Luxembourg
- Inspection of Embassy Asuncion, Paraguay
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

REPORTS ISSUED

- Review of Allegations of Misuse of Department Resources (ESP-21-02)
- Audit of Department of State Use of Appropriated Funds Prior to Expiration and Cancellation (AUD-FM-21-27)
- (SBU) Audit of the Department of State FY 2020 Information Security Program (AUD-IT-21-25)*
- Compliance Follow-Up Audit of the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs Selection and Management of Contract Oversight Personnel in Iraq (AUD-MERO-21-24)
- Review of the Public Diplomacy Staffing Initiative (ISP-I-21-24)
- Inspection of the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations’ Office of Safety, Health, and Environmental Management (ISP-I-21-21)

*Sensitive But Unclassified