



U.S. Embassy Valletta, Malta

## August 2019

### MAKING A DIFFERENCE

In July 2019, a grantee organization agreed to pay \$3.4 million to resolve allegations that it misused award funds from 2012 through 2016. Allegations included deliberately misrepresenting costs, fabricating records of expenditure, and diverting U.S. taxpayer funds. OIG and U.S. Agency for International Development OIG special agents investigated the case.

In response to the March 2017 report *Aspects of the Invoice Review Process Used by the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs to Support Contingency Operations in Iraq Need Improvement*, the Office of Acquisitions Management developed a methodology to calculate costs associated with contractors that are not meeting performance metrics. It also created and implemented a process to reduce payments to contractors when performance metrics are less than “satisfactory.”

### SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

**Film Festival to Build Understanding and Support for U.S.**  
*Inspection of Embassy Paramaribo, Suriname, ISP-I-19-20, July 2019*

Embassy Paramaribo adapted the use of movies, a traditional public diplomacy tool, to inform youth audiences in Suriname on a wide variety of issues. These issues include religious freedom, civil rights, and women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields, as well as other aspects of U.S. society and culture. In 2017, the annual embassy-organized film festival reached approximately 8,750 students from 37 middle and high schools, representing 23 percent of all Surinamese youth aged 12 to 17. Thirteen movies were shown over 45 viewings, and each movie had an associated lesson plan for teachers to use in class to amplify the movie’s theme. This approach enabled the embassy to reach audiences from 9 of 10 administrative districts in Suriname.

### RECOMMENDATIONS STATUS

as of July 31, 2019

**1121**

Open  
Recommendations

**75**

Recommendations  
Closed During July

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### NEW WORK STARTED

- Compliance Follow-up Audit of Recommendation 3 in “Management Assistance Report: The Bureau of Diplomatic Security’s Office of Training and Performance Standards Should Improve Property Management Over Equipment Provided During High-Threat Training”
- Targeted Inspection of Security at Select Domestic Facilities

### REPORTS ISSUED

- *Inspection of Embassy Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (ISP-I-19-17)*
- *Classified Management Assistance Report: Safety and Security Infractions at U.S. Embassy Beirut, Lebanon, Require Immediate Attention (AUD-MERO-19-34)\**
- *Inspection of Embassy Paramaribo, Suriname (ISP-I-19-20)*
- *Audit of the Department of State’s Local Configuration Control Boards (AUD-IT-19-36)*
- *Evaluation of the Bureau of Diplomatic Security’s Aegis Construction Contract at Camp Eggers, Afghanistan (ESP-19-04)*
- *Classified Inspection of Embassy Nassau, The Bahamas (ISP-S-19-19)\**
- *Inspection of Embassy Ljubljana, Slovenia (ISP-I-19-25)*

\*Report is classified or Sensitive But Unclassified