



August 2020

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

In July 2020, Diane Sturgis, a former U.S. Agency for Global Media Contracting Officer, pleaded guilty to conspiring to engage in a bribery scheme. OIG and Federal Bureau of Investigation special agents determined that Sturgis and an owner of a Virginia information and data management firm used a legitimate task order to hire her relative to fill a position in exchange for preferential treatment and the performance of official acts benefitting the firm. From December 2014 through June 2015, the firm issued four payments to Sturgis’ relative totaling \$30,000. However, the relative performed no consulting work in exchange for these payments. Sentencing is scheduled for November.

In July 2020, Bernhardt Furniture Company agreed to pay \$172,000 in civil penalties to settle allegations involving violations of the Procurement Integrity Act relating to the company’s receipt of competitor bid information and providing of gratuities to Department employees in connection with a Department contract. The settlement resolves civil penalty claims against Bernhardt relating to criminal pleas entered by Bernhardt Vice President of Sales Steven Anstine and Department procurement officials Patricia DeLaughter and Davina Foster.

In July 2020, a federal grand jury indicted Cory Sanders on charges of wire fraud, false claims and aggravated identity theft in connection with his companies’ performance on federal contracts. OIG, Department of Labor OIG, and Naval Criminal Investigative Service special agents determined that from 2015 through 2018, Sanders allegedly used his company to defraud multiple federal agencies by providing false information about the delivery, source, and condition of the telecommunications equipment he sold. He also allegedly fabricated and forged certifications.

In July 2020, a security specialist from the Department’s Naval Support Unit pleaded guilty to transporting child pornography. OIG and Homeland Security Investigations special agents determined he used his smartphone and two laptops, one or more of which were Department-issued electronic devices, to obtain explicit photos from the internet. Sentencing is pending.

In the 2019 report, *Inspection of Embassy Paramaribo, Suriname*, OIG recommended that Embassy Paramaribo implement controls for the handling and storage of property in its warehousing

RECOMMENDATIONS STATUS

as of July 31, 2020

652*

Open Recommendations

30*

Recommendations Closed During July

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* 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.

program in accordance with Department guidance. In response to the recommendation, Embassy Paramaribo provided additional documentation showing receipt of auction sales, resulting in \$39,172 being put to better use .

REPORTS ISSUED

- *Classified Inspection of Embassy Geneva, Switzerland (ISP-S-20-16)**
- *Classified Inspection of Embassy Kathmandu, Nepal (ISP-S-20-22)**
- *Compliance Follow-Up Audit of Bureau of Diplomatic Security Property Management Procedures for Protective Personnel Equipment (AUD-SI-20-30)*
- *Lead Inspector General for East Africa and North and West Africa Counterterrorism Operations | Quarterly Report to the United States Congress | January 1, 2020 - March 31, 2020 (July 16, 2020)*
- *Management Assistance Report: Execution of the New Embassy Compound London Construction Project Offers Multiple Lessons (AUD-CGI-20-36)*