MAKING A DIFFERENCE

In November 2018, a former Department contractor was sentenced to 5 months in prison followed by 3 years of supervised release and ordered to pay $33,370 in restitution. In July 2018, the contractor, who worked in Kandahar, Afghanistan, was convicted of three counts of theft and unauthorized sale of government property and one count of interstate transportation of stolen property. OIG and Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction special agents determined that the former contractor stole and resold approximately $48,900 worth of equipment that was meant for excess under the Foreign Excess Personal Property Program.

From October to November 2018, the U.S. Agency for Global Media terminated 15 direct hire and contract employees from Voice of America’s Hausa language international radio service for misconduct. OIG special agents determined the employees had accepted improper payments totaling up to $5,000 collectively from an official in their coverage area.

SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

Competitive College Clubs Laid Foundation for Youth Engagement

As part of its educational advising services, Embassy Banjul’s Public Diplomacy Section, established “Competitive College Clubs” in five rural high schools and a “Banjul Scholars Club” for high-performing students at five capital region high schools. The section provided core EducationUSA services through the clubs and developed activities that address barriers to educational advancement and create a centerpiece for youth engagement nationwide. For example, public diplomacy and consular officers conducted informational sessions on college admissions and visa requirements, and the Ambassador met with club members three times in the year prior to the inspection. They created a WhatsApp group to facilitate direct communications and youth networking. The embassy also supported the program by funding a summer camp focused on leadership skills and providing a small library of reference materials for each club. Through this approach, the clubs improved the participants’ higher education prospects and prepared the next generation of leaders in The Gambia.

NEW WORK STARTED

- Audit of Selected Post Efforts to Track and Remediate Deficiencies Identified During Blue Team Risk Assessments
- Audit of Department of State Oversight of Foreign Assistance Programs Supporting the Philippines
- Lead Inspector General for Operation Inherent Resolve and Other Overseas Contingency Operations | Quarterly Report to the United States Congress (July 1, 2018 - September 30, 2018) with a classified appendix
- Classified Inspection of Embassy Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands (ISP-S-19-07)*
- Inspection of Embassy Dakar, Senegal (ISP-I-19-03)
- Lead Inspector General for Operation Freedom’s Sentinel | Quarterly Report to Congress (July 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018) with a classified appendix
- Fiscal Year 2018 Inspector General Statement on the Department of State’s Major Management and Performance Challenges (OIG-EX-19-01)
- Targeted Review of Leadership and Management at the National Passport Center (ISP-I-19-13)
- Semiannual Report to the Congress (April 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018)
- Audit of the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs Selection and Management of Contract Oversight Personnel in Iraq (AUD-MERO-19-10)

*Report is classified or Sensitive but Unclassified.