



U.S. Embassy Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

MONTHLY
UPDATE



December 2020

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

In the 2018 report, *Inspection of Embassy Riyadh, Saudi Arabia*, OIG recommended that Embassy Riyadh reprogram at least one program-funded information management position to an International Cooperative Administrative Support Services-funded position to realize funds put to better use. In response, Embassy Riyadh reprogrammed one Information Management Officer position to ICASS, resulting in funds put to better use of \$153,480.

In response to the 2020 report, *Audit of the Office of the Coordinator for Assistance to Europe and Eurasia’s Oversight of Foreign Assistance Funds Transferred to Implementing Partners*, the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, Office of the Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia (ACE), took various actions. ACE developed and implemented an appropriate tool to maintain, track, and continually analyze foreign assistance programs under its purview. Additionally, ACE implemented standard operating procedures to effectively oversee foreign assistance programs being executed in the region by implementing partners.

In November 2020, a Department contract company agreed to pay a \$25,000 administrative settlement to resolve allegations that it knowingly provided false information to the Department. OIG special agents determined the company did not comply with contractual obligations to ensure that U.S. embassy local guard force personnel were properly licensed to contract specifications. The OIG Office of General Counsel took the lead in coordinating the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act settlement.

In November 2020, Workrite, an office furniture company, agreed to pay \$7.1 million to resolve allegations under the False Claims Act that it overcharged the Federal Government for office furniture under General Services Administration (GSA) contracts. OIG and GSA special agents determined Workrite provided office furniture to the Government from 2009 to 2017, and the settlement resolves allegations that lower prices were not extended to Government customers, as required by the GSA contract’s price reduction clause.

In November 2020, former Seabee Martin Huizar was sentenced to 109 months’ incarceration and ordered to pay \$41,000 in fines and \$10,000 in restitution, along with serving a 10-year term of supervised release, for transportation of images of child sexual abuse on his phones and tablet computer. The OIG Special Assistant United States Attorney assigned to the Eastern District of Virginia prosecuted the case.

RECOMMENDATIONS STATUS

as of November 30, 2020

615*
Open
Recommendations

41
Recommendations
Closed During November

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* This total includes the following recommendations associated with the IBWC: Open Sensitive: +8 .

Note: 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.

SPOTLIGHTS ON SUCCESS

Innovative Approaches to Remotely Manage Locally Employed Staff in Tripoli

(Inspection of the Libya External Office, ISP-I-21-04)

This November 2020 report highlights innovative approaches that the Libya External Office (LEO) used to remotely manage and better protect the 52 Tripoli-based locally employed (LE) staff. The absence of a diplomatic presence in Libya presented the office with management and program challenges in supervising LE staff. Furthermore, weak security structures and the growing power of militias also limited LE staff’s ability to move freely in Libya. To overcome these limitations, in late 2019, the Regional Security Officer implemented an accountability process by which he received daily updates on the safety of each employee and shared them with the LEO supervisors. Regional Security Office LE staff also accompanied Public Diplomacy LE staff to project sites and meetings to ensure their security. The LE staff communicated results of these visits to supervisors through WhatsApp.

The Libya report also found that the Management Officer organized virtual town hall meetings for Tripoli-based LE staff with the Ambassador, the Deputy Chief of Mission, and other LEO and Embassy Tunis officers. For weekly Management Section staff meetings, the Management Officer used videoconferencing to connect staff in Tripoli and Tunis. The Public Diplomacy Section

also used videoconferencing to include Tripoli-based staff in staff meetings and to organize sessions between public diplomacy specialists and program participants in Libya and the Tunis-based officers. In addition, the Management Officer led an effort whereby American supervisors helped LE staff keep their skills current by providing online and other training opportunities and by bringing them to Tunis periodically, despite challenging travel conditions, to work on specific projects at the LEO or assist Embassy Tunis sections.

NEW WORK STARTED

- *Review of Department of State Compliance With Executive Order on Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping*
- *Review of International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, U.S. Section, Compliance With Executive Order on Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping*
- *Review of U.S. Agency for Global Media Compliance with Executive Order on Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping*
- *Review of Department of State FY 2020 Drug Control Funds and Related Performance Reports for the Office of National Drug Control Policy*
- *Audit of the Bureau of Consular Affairs' Records of Official and Diplomatic Passports*

REPORTS ISSUED

- *Information Report: Department of State 2020 Purchase Charge Card Risk Assessment (AUD-CGI-21-02)*

- *Independent Auditor's Report on the U.S. Department of State FY 2020 and FY 2019 Financial Statements (AUD-FM-21-08)*
- *Independent Auditor's Report on the U.S. Agency for Global Media FY 2020 Financial Statements (AUD-FM-IB-21-10)*
- *Information Report: International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, U.S. Section, 2020 Charge Card Risk Assessment (AUD-CGI-21-05)*
- *Information Report: Department of State 2020 Travel Charge Card Risk Assessment (AUD-CGI-21-06)*
- *Information Report: U.S. Agency for Global Media 2020 Charge Card Risk Assessment (AUD-CGI-IB-21-07)*
- *Management Assistance Report: Expendable Property Management Overseas (ISP-21-11)*
- *Inspection of Consulate General Hamilton, Bermuda (ISP-I-21-03)*
- *Inspection of the Libya External Office (ISP-I-21-04)*
- *Lead Inspector General for Operation Inherent Resolve | Quarterly Report to the United States Congress | July 1, 2020 – September 30, 2020*
- *Lead Inspector General for Operation Freedom's Sentinel | Quarterly Report to the United States Congress | July 1, 2020 – September 30, 2020*
- *Lead Inspector General for Operation Pacific Eagle-Philippines | Quarterly Report to the United States Congress | July 1, 2020 – September 30, 2020*
- *Lead Inspector General for East Africa and North and West Africa Counterterrorism Operations | Quarterly Report to the United States Congress | July 1, 2020 – September 30, 2020*



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:

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