



U.S. Embassy Dublin, Ireland

FEBRUARY 2018

MESSAGE FROM THE IG

In January, I participated in a trip with my Department of Defense and USAID Inspector General counterparts to Iraq and Afghanistan. This was our second visit in support of our joint Lead Inspector General for Overseas Contingency Operations responsibilities, in which the three OIGs work together to oversee operations and programs supporting Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq and Syria and Operation Freedom’s Sentinel in Afghanistan. The group met with the U.S. interagency leadership teams in Baghdad and Kabul, and several of their international colleagues, to receive updates on frontline operations and programs. We also had the opportunity to meet with Afghanistan’s President, Ashraf Ghani. The insights gained from this trip provided a more complete understanding of efforts associated with each operation and will help ensure effective and well-coordinated oversight.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

In January 2018, [a former Department contractor was sentenced](#) to three years’ probation for the sale of Government property. OIG special agents determined that, from March 2016 through March 2017, the contractor, who worked as a special skills tactics instructor at the Diplomatic Security Interim Training Facility, unlawfully acquired ballistic vests and combat helmets valued at more than

\$16,000 and sold and traded them online for other items. The former contractor had pleaded guilty to theft and sale of Government property in September 2017.

In a July 2017 management assistance report, [Improved Oversight Needed to Standardize the Use of Risk Assessments and Monitoring Plans for Overseas Grants](#), OIG recommended that the Bureau of Administration develop risk assessment and monitoring plan templates that are consistent with Department requirements and that can be tailored for overseas use in order to improve Department oversight of grants and cooperative agreements. In January 2018, the Federal Assistance Division in the Bureau of Administration’s Office of the Procurement Executive announced that it created standardized and scalable risk assessment and monitoring plan templates to help overseas posts better oversee grant

awards.

In a January 2018 Bureau of Consular Affairs cable, “In Case You Missed It: Consular News, Tips, and Tricks,” the Assistant Secretary’s remarks focused on OIG inspection findings in two areas: managing workload increases and maintaining appropriate line-of-sight in consular sections. In his cable, he encouraged posts to proactively address these issues and offered the bureau’s assistance to do so. OIG has made numerous recommendations in recent years to address problems in these two areas. For example, in a 2017 report, [Inspection of Consulate General Hong Kong](#), OIG recommended that Consulate General Hong Kong conduct an analysis of its staffing needs for the Nonimmigrant Visa (NIV) Unit and provide the NIV chief with an office that would give him line-of-sight control over the unit’s employees and operations.

RECOMMENDATION STATUS

as of January 31, 2018

836

Open Recommendations

22

Recommendations Closed During the Month of January

[View Latest Monthly Recommendation Reports](#)

[View Report Highlights](#)

NEW WORK STARTED

- Audit of Broadcasting Board of Governors Compliance with the Improper Payments Information Act
- Evaluation of the Department's Treatment of Reports of Sexual Harassment
- Evaluation of the Department of State's Use of Schedule B Hiring Authority
- Inspection of the Bureau of Consular Affairs, Office of Policy Coordination and Public Affairs
- Inspection of the Bureau of Administration, Office of Critical Environment Contracting Analytics, Risk Analysis and Management
- Inspection of the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, Office of Domestic Facilities Protection
- Inspection of Embassy Copenhagen, Denmark
- Inspection of Embassy Lisbon, Portugal
- Inspection of Embassy Chisinau, Moldova
- Inspection of Embassy Dublin, Ireland
- Inspection of the Status of Benghazi Accountability Review Board Recommendations
- Inspection of Internal Controls Governing Contracting Officer Representatives
- Inspection of the Department's Plan for Stabilization and Governance in Syria
- Compliance Follow-up Review of the Management Assistance Report: Armored Vehicle Training
- Compliance Follow-up Review of the Management Alert: Information Security in the Worldwide Admissions Processing System

REPORTS ISSUED

- *Classified Inspection of Consulate General Curacao, Kingdom of the Netherlands** (ISP-S-18-09)
- *Management Assistance Report: DynCorp Intelligence Analysts Supporting the Embassy Air Program Lack Access to Information Needed To Fully Identify Risks and Mitigate Threats** (AUD-SI-18-23)
- *Management Assistance Report: The IT Network Supporting the Colombian Aviation Program Needs Attention To Ensure Compliance With Federal Standards** (AUD-IT-18-18)
- *Management Assistance Report: The Department of State Properly Addressed Invalid Unliquidated Obligations Identified During the FY 2016 Financial Statements Audit* ([AUD-FM-18-27](#))
- *Audit of Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations' Oversight of New Construction Projects at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan* ([AUD-MERO-18-17](#))
- *Audit of the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations' Management of Construction Materials Destined for Controlled Access Areas** (AUD-SI-18-22)
- *Audit of the National Endowment for Democracy and Its Core Institutes' Use of Grant Funds During FYs 2015 and 2016* ([AUD-FM-18-24](#))

*Report is classified or sensitive but unclassified.



The Office of Inspector General conducts independent oversight of the Department of State and the Broadcasting Board of Governors 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: oig.state.gov/HOTLINE