



U.S. Embassy Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

# MONTHLY UPDATE



## February 2019

### MAKING A DIFFERENCE

In December 2018, a Nigerian national was charged in a complaint for his role as the alleged ringleader of an international investment scheme. OIG and FBI special agents investigated this matter. As alleged in the complaint, perpetrators impersonated U.S. bank officials in person at U.S. embassies and over the internet and made false promises of investment funding. Proceeds of the scheme were allegedly laundered through U.S. bank accounts and diverted back to the scheme’s perpetrators in Nigeria. Another Nigerian national was charged in a separate case in October 2018, and seven other individuals (six from the U.S. and one from the Philippines) have been charged as part of the same investigation.

In January 2019, a former Department employee was issued a notice of indebtedness to the Department in the amount of \$39,436 for misappropriating funds. OIG special agents determined the former employee stole funds and diverted materials, such as floor tile and air conditioning units, obtained through legitimate Government purchase orders to complete a family member’s home renovation project. The Bureau of Diplomatic Security revoked the employee’s security clearance, and the employee resigned.

In January 2019, a former Department employee was sentenced to 15 months in prison followed by a three-year term of supervised release and ordered to pay \$244,884 in restitution for fraudulently discharging over \$250,000 in student loan debt. The former employee applied through the Department of Education for a Total and Permanent Disability discharge of student loan debt, affirming that he was disabled and unable to work. OIG special agents determined however, that he earned over \$331,000 from two full-time jobs from May 2013 through October 2016. He also purchased a Bentley, a Porsche, and other luxury vehicles.

In the 2017 report, *Inspection of Embassy Monrovia, Liberia*, OIG recommended that Embassy Monrovia sell or dispose excess inventory in accordance with Department guidelines. In response to the recommendation, Embassy Monrovia sold excess property from March 2017 through April 2018 and terminated the lease of a warehouse, resulting in \$346,785 being put to better use.

### SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

**Mission Staffing, Planning, and Visa Demand Tracking System** (*Inspection of Embassy New Delhi and Constituent Posts, India*, [ISP-I-19-10](#), December 2018)

Consulate General Hyderabad’s Consular Section created a system called the Consular Operations Breakdown for Resource Allocation (COBRA) to determine how staffing affects non-immigrant visa (NIV) workload and scheduling. By combining current and anticipated staffing data and historical and projected workloads, COBRA calculates how many NIV appointments can be scheduled based on available staffing and predicts

### RECOMMENDATIONS STATUS

as of January 31, 2019

**1010**  
Open  
Recommendations

**3**  
Recommendations  
Closed During January

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appointment wait times. In use by all of Mission India, COBRA helps managers plan staffing and scheduling needs. During the inspection, Mission India used COBRA to prepare metrics-based requests for temporary duty staffing to manage personnel gaps during the summer busy season.

### NEW WORK STARTED

- Audit of United States Agency for Global Media Compliance With the Improper Payments Information Act
- Audit of the Department of State’s Overseas Motor Vehicle Fleet

### REPORTS ISSUED

- *Information Report: United States Agency for Global Media 2018 Charge Card Risk Assessment* ([AUD-CGI-IB-19-13](#))
- *Classified Inspection of Embassy New Delhi and Constituent Posts, India* (ISP-S-19-10)\*
- *Information Report: The Bureau of Administration Took Action To Address Expired Office of Facilities Management Services Contracts* ([AUD-CGI-19-12](#))
- *Classified Inspection of Embassy Kolonia, Federated States of Micronesia* (ISP-S-19-05)\*
- *Strategic Plan Fiscal Years 2019 – 2021* ([OIG-ERM-19-01](#))
- *Information Report: International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, U.S. Section, 2018 Charge Card Risk Assessment* ([AUD-CGI-IB-19-14](#))
- *Information Report: Department of State 2018 Charge Card Risk Assessment* ([AUD-CGI-19-15](#))
- *Management Assistance Report: Modification and Oversight of the Bureau of Medical Services Contract for Aeromedical Biocontainment Evacuation Services Violated Federal Requirements* ([AUD-SI-19-11](#))
- *Inspection of Embassy New Delhi and Constituent Posts, India* ([ISP-I-19-10](#))