OIG continues to fulfill its mission to provide oversight of the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for Global Media. However, the unprecedented disruptions related to the COVID-19 pandemic are affecting the nature and quantity of OIG’s work. For example, we are unable to travel overseas, and our ability to perform classified work is limited by our efforts to promote social distancing and maximize telework for our staff.

On May 29, 2020, OIG transmitted to Congress our unclassified semi-annual report (SAR) for the period of October 1, 2019, to March 31, 2020. In the transmittal email, we indicated that our ability to prepare and transmit the classified annex to the SAR for this period had been affected, and that this portion of the SAR would be delayed. Given the ongoing disruptions related to COVID-19 and the effects described above, OIG will forego issuance of the classified annex to the SAR for the period of October 1, 2019, to March 31, 2020. OIG will incorporate any relevant information for this period into the next classified annex.

**MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

In June 2020, a federal grand jury indicted Keith Fisher Sr., the former president of a company providing goods to federal government agencies, for trying to defraud businesses in connection with government contracting. OIG, Naval Criminal Investigative Service, and General Services Administration (GSA) OIG special agents found that, while on supervised release for conspiring to commit mail fraud, Fisher allegedly bid on federal contracts by using an alias to subcontract with a third-party vendor to provide goods directly to the government agency. In addition, he allegedly made false and fraudulent claims to other potential subcontractor vendors. Both Fisher and his company were debarred for 10 years.

In June 2020, Alutiiq International Solutions LLC (AIS) entered into a non-prosecution agreement and has agreed to pay over $1.25 million to resolve a Department of Justice investigation into a kickback and fraud scheme on a contract to modernize the U.S. Department of State Harry S. Truman Building in Washington, D.C. According to AIS admissions in the non-prosecution agreement, former AIS project manager Elmer Baker began receiving kickbacks in 2010 from a subcontractor on the project in exchange for steering work to that subcontractor. By 2015, Baker began demanding cash kickbacks equivalent to 10 percent of the value of contract modifications awarded to the subcontractor. In May 2019, a federal grand jury indicted Baker for conspiracy to violate the Anti-Kickback Act and wire fraud. Baker’s trial is scheduled for December 2020. OIG, FBI, and GSA OIG special agents investigated this case.

In June 2020, a former owner, his company, and the former vice president of sales were debarred for 5 years after being convicted in June 2019 of conspiring to defraud the federal government. OIG, FBI, and Homeland Security Investigations special agents determined that these defendants conspired to supply substitute body armor plates to a federal government contractor. This resulted in the delivery of plates that falsely claimed they conformed to certain specifications. In September 2019, the contractor replaced $3,252,642 worth of non-conforming body armor with legitimate products.

In June 2020, the Department debarred a former contractor employee for theft. The former contractor employee was implementing two Department cooperative agreements to train local governments to carry out their
and the Department) worked together in a single
Multilateral Economic and Political Affairs Section led by two
senior Department officers. Personnel from five specialized
units within the section coordinated constantly and
backstopped each other as U.S. priorities shifted and
workloads fluctuated. The diversity of the section staff led
to the development and delivery of a coordinated U.S.
response on common political themes.

NEW WORK STARTED

- Audit of Department of State Use of Appropriated Funds
  Prior to Expiration and Cancellation.
- Audit of the Information Security Program at the
  Department of State
- Audit of the International Boundary and Water
  Commission, United States and Mexico, U.S. Section,
  Information Security Program
- Audit of the U.S. Agency for Global Media Information
  Security Program

REPORTS ISSUED

- Semiannual Report to the Congress (October 1, 2019 to
  March 31, 2020)
- Inspection of the Bureau of Counterterrorism’s Foreign
  Assistance Program Management (ISP-I-20-14)
- Management Assistance Report: Quarterly Reporting on
  the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Program Needs
  Improvement (AUD-MERO-20-34)
- Inspection of the U.S. Mission to the United Nations
  and Other International Organizations in Geneva, Switzerland
  (ISP-I-20-16)
- Inspection of Embassy Dhaka, Bangladesh (ISP-I-20-17)
- Review of the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Program
  (AUD-MERO-20-35)
- Compliance Follow-Up Review: Targeted Review of
  Leadership and Management at the National Passport
  Center (ISP-C-20-27)
- Management Assistance Report: Department of State
  Guidance Does Not Comply With Federal Travel
  Regulations (AUD-CGI-20-37)
- Audit of Selected Internal Controls for the Special Needs
  Education Allowance (AUD-FM-20-33)