MAKING A DIFFERENCE

In May 2019, an employee of a Department grantee was ordered to pay $23,000 in restitution and sentenced to probation and 50 hours of community service after entering a pre-trial diversion program through the State of New Jersey’s Office of the Attorney General. OIG special agents determined that the employee altered scholarship grantee payment information in a grant program database from October 2017 to April 2018. She then had payment checks mailed to herself, forged the grantees’ names, and endorsed the checks to herself.

In May 2019, a Department purchasing agent and a vendor, as well as his company, were debarred by the Department for 3 years after a joint OIG and Bureau of Diplomatic Security investigation determined that the purchasing agent accepted gifts from the vendor on multiple occasions in 2016 and 2017. In addition, special agents determined the vendor submitted a fictitious company procurement bid to improve his company’s odds of winning another government contract.

In the 2018 report, Inspection of Embassy San Jose, Costa Rica, OIG recommended that Embassy San Jose clear all outstanding travel advances in accordance with Department standards. In response to the recommendation, Embassy San Jose provided documentation showing that the outstanding travel advances identified during the inspection were cleared, resulting in $67,283 being put to better use.

NEW WORK STARTED

- Audit of Department of State Implementation of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014
- Audit of the Information Security Program for the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, U.S. Section

REPORTS ISSUED

- Inspection of the Office of Foreign Missions (ISP-I-19-21)
- Classified Inspection of Embassy Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (ISP-S-19-17)*
- Classified Inspection of Embassy Libreville, Gabon (ISP-S-19-16)*
- Audit of United States Agency for Global Media FY 2018 Compliance With Improper Payments Requirements (AUD-FM-IB-19-28)
- Audit of Department of State FY 2018 Compliance With Improper Payments Requirements (AUD-FM-19-29)
- Semiannual Report to the Congress (October 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019)
  *Report is classified or Sensitive but Unclassified.