



U.S. Embassy Panama City, Panama

March 2019

In February 2019, Inspector General Steve Linick joined his counterparts from the Department of Defense and USAID to meet with interagency leadership teams in Erbil and Baghdad, Iraq, and Kabul, Afghanistan. They received updates on the frontline operations and programs supporting Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq and Syria and Operation Freedom's Sentinel in Afghanistan. They also met with OIG colleagues in Baghdad and Kabul and saw firsthand the positive effects the OIGs' work is having in these critical environments.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

In February 2019, a former Department employee was sentenced to 3 years of probation and was ordered to pay \$7,689 in restitution. OIG special agents determined the former employee submitted forged receipts for official travel while assigned to a U.S. Embassy overseas. The [former employee pleaded guilty to submission of false claims](#) in October 2018.

The Department recovered more than \$225,000 as a result of recommendations in an OIG audit. In the October 2014 report, [Audit of Bureau of Diplomatic Security Worldwide Protective Services Contract Task Order 10 Kabul Embassy Security Force](#), OIG recommended that the Bureau of Administration, Office of Logistics Management, Office of Acquisitions Management review costs that OIG had identified as possibly unallowable and recover any costs deemed unallowable.

As a result of OIG's March 2017 report, [Aspects of the Invoice Review Process Used by the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs to Support Contingency Operations in Iraq Need Improvement](#), the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs (NEA) took actions to address identified issues. NEA implemented a standard operating procedure for Contracting Officer Representative (COR) files and COR inspection reports to monitor their completeness and timeliness; conducted monthly file inspections; and developed a process that has allowed NEA to track and ensure that COR inspections are completed in accordance with the inspection schedules. This was the first in a series of audit reports assessing the invoice review process used to support overseas contingency operations, and it identified a significant backlog of invoices. OIG found that the lack of effective contract performance metrics contributed to instances where invoices were paid despite inspection reports that identified problems with contractor performance or inspection reports that were not completed in the first place.

NEW WORK STARTED

- Audit of Department of State FY 2018 Compliance With the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act of 2010
- Audit of the Administration and Oversight of Selected Bureau of Administration, Office of Operations, Office of Facilities Management Services Contracts

RECOMMENDATIONS STATUS

as of February 28, 2019

1066

Open
Recommendations

28

Recommendations
Closed During February

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- Audit of Cost Management and Recovery Efforts of Embassy Air in Afghanistan and Iraq
- Inspection of Embassy Tirana
- Inspection of Embassy Ljubljana
- Audit of Selected Post Efforts To Track and Remediate Deficiencies Identified During Blue Team Risk Assessments

REPORTS ISSUED

- *Lead Inspector General for Operation Inherent Resolve and Other Overseas Contingency Operations | Quarterly Report to the United States Congress (October 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018)* with a classified appendix
- *Lead Inspector General for Operation Pacific Eagle-Philippines | Quarterly Report to the United States Congress (October 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018)*
- *Inspection of Embassy Colonia, Federated States of Micronesia (ISP-I-19-05)*
- *Inspection of Embassy Koror, Republic of Palau (ISP-I-19-06)*
- *Inspection of Embassy Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands (ISP-I-19-07)*
- *Audit of Department of State Directorate of Defense Trade Controls Export Licensing Processes (AUD-SI-19-07)*
- *Classified Inspection of Embassy Koror, Republic of Palau* (ISP-S-19-06)*
- *Management Assistance Report: Use of Personal Social Media Accounts to Conduct Official Business (ESP-19-02)*
- *Evaluation of the Department of State's Use of Schedule B Hiring Authority (ESP-19-03)*
- *Audit of Bureau of Diplomatic Security Worldwide Protective Services Contract II Task Order 2 – Baghdad Protective Movement Security Services* (AUD-MERO-19-18)*
- *Lead Inspector General for Operation Freedom's Sentinel | Quarterly Report to Congress (October 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018)* with a classified appendix

*Report is classified or Sensitive but Unclassified.