



May 2018

RECOMMENDATION STATUS

as of April 30, 2018

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

In April 2018, [the former owner of a transportation company was sentenced](#) to 14 months in prison for stealing \$17,335 in Federal grant funds intended for a Department-maintained foreign exchange program. OIG and FBI special agents determined that the owner conspired with a Department official to steal portions of the \$247,200 grant by submitting false and inflated invoices.

In response to recent OIG Management Assistance Reports (MARs) and inspection findings, the Department has taken positive steps to improve its operations. One example is in the performance of Information System Security Officer (ISSO) duties. In a 2017 MAR, [Non-Performance of Information Systems Security Officers Duties by Overseas Personnel](#), OIG recommended that the Bureau of Information Resource Management (IRM) develop and implement a plan to ensure overseas information management personnel perform ISSO duties in accordance with Department standards. In response, IRM added a new ISSO reference guide to its

<h1>938</h1> <p>Open Recommendations</p>	<h1>12</h1> <p>Recommendations Closed During April</p>	<p>View Latest Monthly Recommendation Reports</p>
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updated ISSO intranet site, revised the Foreign Affairs Handbook to address changes in how ISSOs are designated, and created new requirements to designate a system administrator for each system.

SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

Civil-Military Coordination Furthered U.S. Interests (*Inspection of Embassy Djibouti, Djibouti, [ISP-I-18-14](#)*)

Embassy Djibouti and the Combined Joint Taskforce Horn of Africa, based at Camp Lemonnier, established collaborative coordination mechanisms that facilitated planning and implementation of activities to effectively advance U.S. interests in the Horn of Africa. At a monthly meeting, personnel from the

Department of State, DoD, and USAID discussed diplomacy, defense, and development issues of common concern. The meeting provided an effective forum for strategic and tactical planning as well as implementation. For example, the Combined Joint Taskforce Horn of Africa constructed hospitals and libraries throughout the Republic of Djibouti as part of its humanitarian civic assistance program. USAID structured its programming to provide library books and conduct youth reading programs in these facilities. Using local contacts and introductions in the project areas, the embassy then was able to organize a field research project on countering violent extremism.

SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS (continued)

Grants Management Bolstered by Online Tool and Department Support (*Inspection of Embassy San Jose, Costa Rica*, [ISP-I-18-13](#))

Embassy San Jose's Political/Economic Section's use of an online tool contributed to its effectiveness in managing the solicitation, award, monitoring, and closeout of more than \$1.5 million in annual foreign assistance grants funded through the Central American Regional Security Initiative. The Grants Officer Representative used the online program management tool to create checklists and timelines to facilitate grants management, including issuance, approval of payment requests, receipt of required grantee reporting, and completion of evaluation reports. In addition, the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs made Washington, D.C.-based staff available to train and advise embassy personnel on grants management.

Consular Effort Promoted Lifeguards and Beach Safety (*Inspection of San Jose, Costa Rica*, [ISP-I-18-13](#))

Costa Rica ranks second only to Mexico in the number of U.S. citizens who drown each year while overseas. According to figures provided by Costa Rican judicial police, rip currents on the country's beaches kill 50 foreign tourists every year, many of whom are U.S. citizens. To address this danger and improve local lifeguarding standards, Embassy San Jose organized a visit to Costa Rica by members of the International Lifesaving Federation. American citizen services staff, in collaboration with the Public Affairs Section, local authorities, private groups, and the International Lifesaving Federation, conducted a campaign to raise awareness about drownings on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and led a training exercise. Host government authorities and leaders reviewed lifesaving standards and training curricula and participated in training exercises with the Costa Rican Red Cross volunteer lifeguarding corps. Embassy San Jose's efforts to raise awareness convinced local legislators to begin the process of creating a national lifeguard corps.

NEW WORK STARTED

- Audit of the Information Security Program at the Department of State
- Audit of the Information Security Program for the Broadcasting Board of Governors

REPORTS ISSUED

- *Management Assistance Report: Improper Installation of Key Components of U.S. Embassy Kabul, Afghanistan's Fire Alarm System Needs Prompt Attention* ([AUD-MERO-18-32](#))
- *Audit of Costs Invoiced Under the Afghanistan Life Support Services Contracts* ([AUD-MERO-18-35](#))
- *Inspection of Embassy Djibouti, Djibouti* ([ISP-I-18-14](#))
- *Classified Inspection of Embassy Djibouti, Djibouti** (ISP-S-18-14)
- *Classified Inspection of Embassy Guatemala City, Guatemala** (ISP-S-18-16)
- *Classified Inspection of Embassy Addis Ababa, Ethiopia** (ISP-S-18-18)
- *Compliance Follow-Up Review: Armored Vehicle Training* ([ISP-C-18-32](#))
- *Inspection of Embassy Copenhagen, Denmark* ([ISP-I-18-23](#))
- *Inspection of the Bureau of Information Resource Management's Office of Governance, Resource, and Performance Management* ([ISP-I-18-15](#))
- *Management Assistance Report - Status of Key Emergency Medical Supplies at Posts Worldwide** (AUD-MERO-18-36)
- *Inspection of Embassy San Jose, Costa Rica* ([ISP-I-18-13](#))
- *Management Assistance Report - Further Department Attention Needed to Close OIG Recommendations Concerning Safety and Security Deficiencies at Overseas Posts** (AUD-ACF-18-37)

*Report is classified or sensitive but unclassified.



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