MAKING A DIFFERENCE

In October 2018, a former Department employee pleaded guilty to submission of false claims. OIG special agents determined that the former employee submitted false claims that may have exceeded $100,000 while assigned to a U.S. embassy overseas. As part of the scheme, the former employee submitted forged receipts for expenses related to official travel in the United States and abroad.

In October 2018, a former Department employee was sentenced to 26 years in Federal prison for production of child pornography. OIG and FBI special agents, working with several law enforcement partners, determined that the employee conspired to produce more than 1,000 sexually explicit images and videos of minor children in Canada during a 2-year period. In July 2018, the former employee pleaded guilty to conspiring to produce child pornography and producing child pornography.

In October 2018, a former Department employee pleaded guilty to wire fraud in connection with a scheme where he fraudulently applied for over $200,000 in student aid relief. 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 during the period from May 2013 through October 2016, he earned over $331,000 from his two full-time jobs. Sentencing is scheduled for January 2019.

In October 2018, a senior Department employee was issued a letter of admonishment for failing to adhere to a post’s official government vehicle use policy. OIG special agents determined the employee used a government vehicle more than 40 times to conduct personal business without filling out the required “daily vehicle use record.”

SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

Financial Compliance Training Assists Grant Recipients (Inspection of the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor’s Foreign Assistance Program Management, ISP-I-19-12)

The Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL) has developed an innovative program to promote better understanding of Federal financial processes by sponsoring annual training sessions for grant recipients that focus on financial compliance. So far, these sessions have included more than 30 DRL grant recipients with operations in 15 countries. DRL's training provider also visits individual grant recipients to conduct financial reviews and provide technical assistance to improve grant recipients’ financial operations. DRL staff said that this training helped improve grant recipients’ compliance with Federal financial standards. OIG consistently identifies financial management deficiencies among grant recipients, such as unsupported or unallowable costs and incomplete financial reporting, making this training valuable to address a key grant management risk area.

Drive-Cam Program Improved Driver Safety (Inspection of Embassy Nairobi, Kenya, ISP-I-19-08)

Embassy Nairobi’s Drive-Cam Program, the largest program of the 22 participating diplomatic posts worldwide, led to improved driver performance and fewer accidents. Since implementing the program, the embassy has seen a reduction of 78 percent in severity and 79 percent in frequency of risky driving incidents. Embassy Nairobi requires drivers to take safety refresher training for each incident captured by the Drive-Cam. In May 2018, the Bureau of Overseas

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SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS (continued)

Buildings Operations’ Office of Safety Health and Environmental Management gave the embassy a Department award in recognition of its record of improving driver performance. Embassy management and the Front Office have been fully engaged in supporting the program and ensuring training to improve driver performance.


DRL’s Office of Policy Planning and Public Diplomacy has actively used social media tools to conduct outreach on human rights issues. The bureau’s Facebook page is the Department’s second-most popular domestic page and has approximately 2.3 million followers, 98 percent of whom live outside the United States. The office produced 70 videos over 12 months, 52 of which were part of its Human Rights Heroes Initiative and spotlighted individuals and institutions engaged in human rights work around the world. For example, in December 2017, the office produced a video interview of a North Korean defector, which drew about 11,000 viewers. Its videos, tied to DRL bureau strategic priorities, were viewed 2.2 million times. Finally, the office’s May 2018 interactive web chat on media literacy attracted participation by 35 U.S. embassies and other programming venues, the largest number of venues in the Department’s history for such outreach, according to information reviewed by OIG.

NEW WORK STARTED

- Audit of the Department of State Local Configuration Control Boards
- Department of State Reorganization and Redesign Effort and Plan
- Audit of Fuel Acquisition, Storage, and Distribution at Mission Turkey and Embassy Beirut, Lebanon

REPORTS ISSUED

- FY 2019 Comprehensive Oversight Plan for Overseas Contingency Operations (October 2018)
- Inspection of the Bureau of Diplomatic Security’s Office of Domestic Facilities Protection* (ISP-I-19-01)
- Classified Inspection of Embassy Nairobi, Kenya* (ISP-S-19-08)
- Audit of the Department of State Sanitization of Information Technology Media Before Disposal* (AUD-IT-19-02)
- Inspection of Embassy Nairobi, Kenya (ISP-I-19-08)
- Inspection of U.S. Mission to Somalia (ISP-I-19-09)
- Inspection of the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor’s Foreign Assistance Program Management (ISP-I-19-12)
- Audit of the Department of State Information Security Program* (AUD-IT-19-08)
- Audit of the U.S. Agency for Global Media Information Security Program* (AUD-IT-IB-19-09)
- Review of Allegations of Improper Passport Seizures at Embassy Sana’a, Yemen (ESP-19-01)

*Report is classified or Sensitive but Unclassified.