



U.S. Embassy Zagreb, Croatia

November 2019

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

In October 2019, a jury convicted a former Department contracting officer (CO) on 13 counts of conspiracy, bribery, honest services wire fraud, and making false statements. Sentencing is scheduled for February 2020. Prior to the CO's indictment in April 2019, OIG and FBI special agents determined that from November 2012 to early 2017, the CO and the owner of a Turkish construction firm allegedly engaged in a bribery and procurement fraud scheme in which the CO received at least \$239,300 in cash payments from the business owner. In return, the CO allegedly supervised multimillion-dollar construction contracts awarded to the owner's business partners. The CO allegedly concealed the unlawful relationship by making false statements on financial disclosure forms and during his background reinvestigation. The CO's security clearance was suspended.

In October 2019, the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs reported that all unliquidated obligations identified during a 2018 [Inspection of Yemen Affairs Unit](#) have been de-obligated, resulting in \$4.89 million in funds to put to better use. OIG had recommended that the unit validate or de-obligate \$4.89 million.

SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

Crisis Preparedness Fair Well Received
([Inspection of Embassy Maseru, Lesotho, ISP-I-20-01](#))

In December 2017, Embassy Maseru's Regional Security Officer organized a Crisis Preparedness Fair as part of a broader crisis management exercise. The event was an effort to involve the entire embassy community—especially locally employed staff and American family members—in emergency planning. Most embassy sections hosted their own emergency preparedness-themed activities. For example, the Public Affairs Section held a question-and-answer game show, the Information Management Office displayed emergency communication equipment, the Regional Security Office and Health Unit had trauma and medical treatment demonstrations (including CPR), and the Facilities Management Section offered fire extinguisher training. In addition to providing training and exposure to emergency resources and personnel, the fair provided an informal environment for key external contacts to meet embassy staff members with whom they would interact in an emergency. Participants were also provided with material to take home. The fair was well received

RECOMMENDATIONS STATUS

as of October 31, 2019

1,128

Open
Recommendations

33

Recommendations
Closed During October

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within the community, and the Regional Security Officer planned to make it an annual event.

NEW WORK STARTED

- Review of the Use of Emergency Authorities Under the Arms Export Control Act

REPORTS ISSUED

- *FY 2020 Comprehensive Oversight Plan for Overseas Contingency Operations (October 2019)*
- *Inspection of Embassy Maseru, Lesotho (ISP-I-20-01)*
- *Inspection of Embassy Mbabane, Eswatini (ISP-I-20-03)*
- *Independent Accountant's Report on the Application of Agreed-Upon Procedures: Employee Benefits, Withholdings, Contributions, and Supplemental Semiannual Headcount Reporting Submitted to the Office of Personnel Management (AUD-FM-20-01)*
- *Classified Inspection of Embassy Nouakchott, Mauritania (ISP-S-20-04)**
- *Classified Inspection of Embassy N'Djamena, Chad (ISP-S-20-02)**
- *Audit of the U.S. Agency for Global Media Information Security Program (AUD-IT-IB-20-02)**
- *Audit of the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, U.S. Section, Information Security Program (AUD-IT-20-03)**
- *Audit of the Department of State Information Security Program (AUD-IT-20-04)**

*Report is classified or Sensitive But Unclassified