



U.S. Embassy London, England

MONTHLY UPDATE



October 2018

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

In September 2018, a Department contractor, who worked for the U.S. Embassy in Costa Rica, was sentenced to 30 months in prison and ordered to pay \$293,832 in restitution. The individual had pleaded guilty in June to the theft of government funds. OIG special agents determined that he had used his position as president of a Costa Rican company to steal more than \$2 million in taxpayer funds that were intended for use in the processing of visa application fees for the embassy in Costa Rica.

In September 2018, a Department contractor was sentenced to 6 months in prison. In June, he had pleaded guilty to six counts of wire fraud related to misconduct in government contracting. The defendant was previously placed in proposed debarment status by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for providing counterfeit goods and for a history of failure to perform or unsatisfactory performance on contracts. After learning of his proposed debarment, he created a new company in order to continue obtaining government contracts, including contracts awarded by the Department. He used an alias to falsely certify to the government that he was not currently proposed for debarment. His company received 37 government contracts worth approximately \$245,000 as a result of this false certification. He later created another company and used another alias to falsely certify that he was not presently debarred. That company received seven government contracts worth approximately \$60,000 as a result of this second false certification.

In September 2018, a Department official was sentenced to 13 months in prison and ordered to pay \$35,112 in restitution. She had pleaded guilty in May to conspiring with others to steal portions of federal grant funds intended for a foreign exchange program maintained by the Department.

NEW WORK STARTED

- Audit of the Department of State’s Coordination and Oversight of the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)
- Audit of Department of State Cooperative Agreement Awarded to Support the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
- Audit of the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations Commissioning of Staff Diplomatic Apartment-2 and Apartment-3 at U.S. Embassy Kabul, Afghanistan

RECOMMENDATIONS STATUS

as of September 28, 2018

963

Open Recommendations

69

Recommendations Closed During September

[View Latest Monthly Recommendation Reports](#)

[View Report Highlights](#)

- Review of the Department of State Organizational Redesign Effort
- Inspection of Embassy Bogotá, Colombia
- Inspection of Embassy Kigali, Rwanda
- Inspection of Embassy Libreville, Gabon
- Inspection of Embassy Nassau, Bahamas
- Inspection of Embassy Paramaribo, Suriname
- Inspection of Embassy Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
- Inspection of Embassy Port-au-Prince, Haiti
- Inspection of the Office of Foreign Missions
- Inspection of the U.S. Agency for Global Media
- Review of Effects of the Hiring Freeze on the Department of State

REPORTS ISSUED

- *Audit of the Department of State’s Administration of its Aviation Program (AUD-SI-18-59)*
- *Department of State Stabilization Programs in Syria Funded Under the Further Continuing and Security Assistance Appropriations Act, 2017 (ISP-I-18-29)*
- *Classified Audit of the Information Security Program for Sensitive Compartmented Information Systems at the Department of State (AUD-IT-18-58)**
- *Audit of the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, U.S. Section, Information Security Program (AUD-IT-18-57)**
- *Classified Inspection of Embassy Dakar, Senegal (ISP-S-18-35)**

*Report is classified or Sensitive but Unclassified.