



MONTHLY UPDATE



January 2023

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS) took steps to improve contract oversight in response to recommendations in a September 2022 report, *Audit of the Bureau of Diplomatic Security's Oversight of Contractor Performance and Invoice Processing for the Domestic Guard Services Contract (AUD-SI-22-37)*. Specifically, DS inspected 100 percent of the body armor items acquired for use under the contract, determined that some of the equipment was not of sufficient quality, and replaced the body armor items that were not meeting contractual standards. DS addressed this potential life safety issue in a timely manner.

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In response to recommendations in the 2021 report *Inspection of Embassy Praia, Cabo Verde (ISP-I-21-31)*, the embassy provided documentation showing a review of all unliquidated obligations that had no activity for more than a year, resulting in \$46,691 being put to better use.

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In the 2022 report, *Inspection of Embassy Athens and Constituent Posts, Greece (ISP-I-22-14)*, OIG recommended that Embassy Athens dismantle and remove shipping containers and portable structures from embassy property in accordance with Department requirements. In response to the recommendation, Embassy Athens provided documentation of sales from numerous auctions, with \$12,750 being put to better use.

RECOMMENDATIONS STATUS

as of January 31, 2023

981* Open Recommendations	60** Recommendations Closed During January
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[View Recommendations](#)

*Includes 46 recommendations associated with the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC).

**Includes 9 recommendations closed on OIG's classified network.

Reports

Ongoing Work

SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

Bolivia's Alumni Network Inspires Others (*Inspection of Embassy La Paz, Bolivia, ISP-I-22-03*)

Embassy La Paz's alumni network organization, first launched in 2015, has been a model for other U.S. embassies in South America. Serving as a supporting organization for local English language clubs, alumni-driven programming, and mentorship, the "Inspira Alumni Network" has satellite chapters in all major Bolivian cities, providing avenues for participants to apply their exchange program experiences, particularly volunteerism and community engagement. In 2020, U.S. Embassy Quito adopted the Inspira model, reporting in 2022 that Ecuadorian Inspira activities had reached hundreds of alumni. The Inspira Alumni Network model leverages the strengths of Inspira members, along with their firsthand knowledge of the cities in which they live, to support constant programming for key audiences at a low cost to the embassy.

NEW WORK STARTED

- *Audit of U.S. Agency for Global Media FY 2022 Compliance With the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019*
- *Audit of Department of State FY 2022 Compliance With the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019*
- *Audit of the Department of State (Department) FY 2023 Information Security Program*
- *Audit of the U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM) FY 2023 Information Security Program*
- *Audit of the Department of State FY 2023 Information Security Program for Sensitive Compartmented Information Systems*
- *Audit of the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, U.S. Section (USIBWC), FY 2023 Information Security Program*
- *Inspection of Embassy Chisinau, Moldova*
- *Classified Inspection of Embassy Chisinau, Moldova*
- *Inspection of Embassy Cotonou, Benin*
- *Classified Inspection of Embassy Cotonou, Benin*
- *Inspection of Embassy Lomé, Togo*
- *Classified Inspection of Embassy Lomé, Togo*
- *Inspection of the Bureau of Information Resource Management's Mobile and Remote Access Division*
- *Review of the Department of State's Progress in Instituting Reforms to Improve Accountability for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Goals*

UKRAINE OVERSIGHT

In January, OIG issued an [information brief](#) in response to the FY 2023 Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act (Act). We found that the Department's established process and interagency consultation and evaluation supported its certification that the mechanisms for monitoring and oversight of funds made available under the Act for direct financial support for the government of Ukraine are in place and functioning, and that the government of Ukraine has in place substantial safeguards to prevent corruption and ensure accountability of such funds.

Diana Shaw, Deputy Inspector General performing the duties of the Inspector General, recently joined her counterparts from the Department of Defense and the U.S. Agency for International Aid for a joint trip to Ukraine, Poland, and Germany in furtherance of coordinated Ukraine oversight. Shaw [speaks about the trip](#) and the emphasis OIG has placed on ensuring that the substantial resources being provided are managed effectively and efficiently; that controls are in place to prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse; and that there is true accountability for individuals and organizations that would divert those resources through corrupt activities.

REPORTS ISSUED

- *Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023 Mandated Assessment ([AUD-MERO-23-10](#))*
- *Inspection of Embassy La Paz, Bolivia ([ISP-I-23-03](#))*
- *Inspection of the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs ([ISP-I-23-08](#))*
- *Video report of oversight trip to Ukraine, Germany, and Poland ([January 2023](#))*



The Office of Inspector General conducts independent oversight of the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for Global Media on behalf of American taxpayers to:

- Promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness.
- Prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse.
- Identify vulnerabilities and recommend constructive solutions.

Report waste, fraud, or abuse 24 hours a day to the OIG hotline: www.stateoig.gov/HOTLINE