



U.S. Embassy Singapore, Singapore

February 2024

IRAQ OPERATIONS

OIG is examining the potential closure of its operations for Embassy Baghdad, Iraq. On October 20, 2023, the Department ordered the departure of non-emergency U.S. government personnel from Embassy Baghdad and U.S. Consulate General Erbil due to increased security threats against U.S. government personnel and interests. No OIG personnel have been in Iraq since October 2023. Going forward, OIG will adhere to congressional notification requirements, as appropriate.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

In the November 2023 inspection report, *Review of Department of State End-Use Monitoring in Ukraine (ISP-I-24-02)*, OIG recommended that the Department develop and implement new or updated end-use monitoring (EUM) standard operating procedures (SOPs) for use in non-permissive conditions where U.S. government personnel may be unable to carry out in-person monitoring. In response, Embassy Kyiv issued a cable noting its revised FY23 EUM plan, taking a risk-based approach to monitoring U.S.-origin items in Ukraine. Additionally, the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, and the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation’s Office of Export Control Cooperation have all issued updated SOPs that address non-permissive environments. These new procedures will provide global guidance for the increasing number of areas that experience conflict, crises, or other limitations on personnel operations and support efforts to safeguard equipment provided by the United States.

SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

Partnering with Program Alumni to Mentor Underserved Students (*Inspection of Embassy Singapore, Singapore, ISP-I-24-09*)

Embassy Singapore’s Public Diplomacy Section teamed with 50 alumni of its programs to mentor 50 underprivileged students from Singapore’s Institute of Technical Education to enable them to compete more effectively in the workforce.

RECOMMENDATIONS STATUS*

as of February 29, 2024

1,035**

Open
Recommendations

41***

Recommendations
Closed During January

[View Recommendations](#)

* OIG delivers monthly SBU/classified recommendation reports to congressional committees of jurisdiction.

** Includes 53 recommendations associated with the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC).

*** Includes 13 recommendations closed on OIG’s classified network.

[Reports](#)

[Ongoing Work](#)

The U.S. Embassy Alumni Mentoring Program matched 50 students from the institute with 50 Fulbright, International Visitor Leadership Program, and Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative alumni. U.S. corporate partners hosted sessions designed to prepare students to compete for jobs while also introducing them to American business practices. In addition, the mentoring program created opportunities for Embassy Singapore to conduct other public diplomacy initiatives with the institute and corporate partners.

IG NOMINATION WITH SENATE

Cardell K. Richardson, Sr., [the nominee for State Department inspector General](#), cleared both the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and, most recently, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

Mr. Richardson’s nomination is now on the [Senate’s Executive Calendar](#), and he is eligible for a vote by the full Senate. Mr. Richardson has a distinguished record of service in the U.S. Air Force and is currently serving as the [inspector general at the U.S. National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency](#).

NOTABLE OPEN RECOMMENDATION

In the July 2023 report, *Audit of the Management and Administration of the Consular Systems Modernization Program* ([AUD-CGI-23-20](#)), OIG made 20 recommendations to improve the Department's program and project management and its administration of task orders. OIG found that the Department did not properly design the Consular Systems Modernization (CSM) program, develop a monitoring plan that complied with Department guidance, evaluate the CSM program, or perform required IT governance reviews. Eight recommendations were unresolved when the final report was issued. OIG is concerned that the Department has not responded to those recommendations for more than 230 days. The delay in implementation hinders the Department's ability to maintain modern, reliable, and secure IT systems to provide passport services and support to U.S. citizens.

REPORTS ISSUED

- *Inspection of Embassy Singapore, Singapore* ([ISP-I-24-09](#))
- *Management Letter Related to the Audit of the U.S. Agency for Global Media FY 2023 Financial Statements* ([AUD-FM-IB-24-11](#))
- *Management Letter Related to the Audit of the U.S. Department of State FY 2023 Financial Statements* ([AUD-FM-24-12](#))
- *Independent Review of the U.S. Department of State Accounting and Authentication of FY 2023 Budget Formulation Compliance Report and Detailed Accounting Report* ([AUD-FM-24-10](#))

NEW WORK STARTED

- *Follow-Up Audit of the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Program*

UKRAINE AND AFGHANISTAN OVERSIGHT

In February, OIG Acting Inspector General Diana Shaw joined inspectors general from the Department of Defense and the U.S. Agency for International Development for a 3-day trip to Kyiv, Ukraine. The leaders met with senior U.S. and Ukrainian government officials and civil society organizations to discuss ongoing efforts to protect U.S. taxpayer-funded assistance to Ukraine and to reinforce the need for collaboration, accountability, and transparency from all stakeholders regarding U.S. assistance programs in Ukraine.

[State OIG](#) signed Memoranda of Understanding with the Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office to establish a formal information-sharing framework to bolster collaboration and transparency on investigative efforts. State OIG has an existing MOU with the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine. For more details on the trip, please go [here](#).



Ukraine Response Oversight

For complete lists of completed, ongoing, and planned work related to Ukraine.



Afghanistan Oversight

For complete lists of completed, ongoing, and planned work related to Afghanistan.



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:

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- Prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse.
- Identify vulnerabilities and recommend constructive solutions.

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