



U.S. Embassy Warsaw, Poland

April 2024

INSPECTOR GENERAL RICHARDSON CONFIRMED



Cardell K. Richardson, Sr., was confirmed as Inspector General (IG) for the U.S. Department of State (Department) on May 2. IG Richardson has a distinguished record of service in the U.S. Air Force and recently served as IG at the U.S. National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. IG Richardson is a retired

U.S. Air Force colonel and was appointed to the Defense Intelligence Senior Executive Service in July 2003 after serving 26 years active duty. IG Richardson looks forward to working with Congress and the agencies we oversee to fulfill our important oversight mission.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

In the July 2021 report, *Audit of Department of State Protocols for Establishing and Operating Remote Diplomatic Missions (AUD-MERO-21-33)*, OIG made 16 recommendations to the Department that are intended to address common challenges impacting remote missions. The Department has made concerted efforts to implement all 16 recommendations. Specifically, the Department has developed and implemented guidance addressing when and how remote missions should be established and guidance addressing the daily operations of remote missions. Also, the Department has developed and implemented a requirement for regional bureaus to periodically reevaluate the status of missions that have temporarily established operations outside of their respective host countries to determine whether those missions should continue to exist in their current form. The Department's actions should alleviate common challenges impacting remote missions.

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RECOMMENDATIONS STATUS*

as of April 30, 2024

1,030**

Open Recommendations

40***

Recommendations Closed During April

[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 10 recommendations closed on OIG's classified network.

[Reports](#)

[Ongoing Work](#)

In April 2024, a company agreed to repay the U.S. government \$11,852.50 through a Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act settlement. The settlement resolved allegations that the company sold grey market and potentially counterfeit equipment to the Department from 2016 to 2018.

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Also in April, a Department employee received a letter of admonishment, and another agreed to repay a total of \$1,498.28 related to allegations of false claims. As reported in last month's update, nine Department employees agreed to repay a combined total of over \$55,000 to settle allegations of such claims. OIG special agents determined that from 2015 through 2018, the employees utilized a third-party vendor to obtain reimbursements of the Special Needs Education Allowance for purchases that were otherwise not authorized.

NOTABLE OPEN RECOMENDATION

In the September 2016 report, *Audit of the Department of State Travel Card Program (AUD-CGI-16-48)*, OIG recommended that the Bureau of the Comptroller and Global Financial Services develop and implement split disbursement procedures as required by the Office of Management and Budget for all Department-issued travel card holders. In February 2024, the Bureau of the Comptroller and Global Financial Services informed OIG that it had begun developing the split disbursement procedures and expected to implement them by the third quarter of this fiscal year. Implementation of this recommendation could ensure that Department-issued travel card holders use their

charge cards for all non-exempted official travel-related expenses, which could reduce delinquencies and increase the Department’s potential sales refund.

NEW WORK STARTED

- *Audit of Department of State Efforts To Counter Iran-Backed Groups*
- *Audit of Department of State Administration of Subcontracting Plans for Small Businesses*
- *Audit of the Department of State’s FY 2024 and FY 2023 Financial Statements*
- *Audit of U.S. Embassy Kyiv, Ukraine, Record Retention for Electronic Messaging*

UKRAINE OVERSIGHT

In April, OIG issued the inspection *Review of the Kyiv Transit Platform (ISP-I-24-17)*. In this report, OIG examined the Kyiv Transit Platform’s (KTP) operational effectiveness, assessed security and accountability issues, and reviewed the coordination between Embassy Kyiv and Mission Poland as outlined in a June 2023 memorandum of understanding. This report includes a classified annex that discusses security and accountability issues related to the KTP. Concurrent with this review, OIG also inspected Mission Poland, and that report should be issued in May 2024. OIG found the KTP generally operated in accordance with Department standards, with a few exceptions. OIG made two recommendations.

COMPLETED OVERSIGHT WORK



| TOTAL RECOMMENDATIONS | OTHER PRODUCTS | ONGOING & PLANNED OVERSIGHT PROJECTS |
|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| 106 | 4 | 17 |



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REPORT RECAP



April 2024

The following reports were issued in April by the Department of State Office of Inspector General (OIG).

 *Management Letter Related to the Audit of the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, U.S. Section, FY 2023 Financial Statements*
([AUD-FM-24-15](#))


During the financial statement audit, an independent external auditor identified one weakness related to Prompt Payment Act (PPA) compliance. This letter notes that the auditor tested 78 expense transactions recorded as of June 30, 2023, and identified 3 (4 percent) instances of noncompliance with the PPA. Specifically, USIBWC overpaid interest for three invoices that were not paid within 30 days. If interest penalty errors to vendors continue, USIBWC may not be in compliance with the PPA. Furthermore, USIBWC could miss opportunities to apply miscalculated interest payments to other purposes. This issue was initially reported in the FY 2019 management letter.

 *Compliance Follow-Up Review of Management Assistance Report: Visa Fee Reconciliation*
([ISP-C-24-20](#))

This report contains information that is Sensitive But Unclassified and is prohibited from dissemination to non-U.S. citizens.

 *Classified Inspection of Embassy Warsaw, Poland*
([ISP-S-24-18](#))

This report contains information that is Classified and unavailable for public viewing.

 *Classified Inspection of Embassy Dar es Salaam, Tanzania*
([ISP-S-24-13](#))

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