



U.S. Capitol

MONTHLY UPDATE



August 2023

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

An OIG investigation led the South Korea Supreme Prosecutor Office to indict two former executives and one employee for embezzlement in August. OIG agents found that three subjects from the Korean-American Educational Commission diverted program funds to private bank accounts and used the funds for personal gain. All three will be tried in the Republic of Korea’s district court system.

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In response to a May 2022 report, the Bureau of Administration determined that the Office of Management and Budget’s Combat Trafficking in Persons training course will be required annually for Contracting Officers (CO) and Contracting Officer’s Representatives (COR). The course focuses on combating trafficking in persons (TIP) in government contracting, monitoring contractor compliance, and reviewing contractors’ compliance plans. The bureau has also issued an Acquisition Alert that clarifies requirements for TIP monitoring, including developing and implementing TIP monitoring strategies, for all contracts—not only those that employ third-country nationals or migrant labor. In addition, the bureau reviewed TIP compliance plans for all active contracts identified in OIG’s report and determined that plans were compliant with the Federal Acquisition Regulation and that no additional action was needed. *Audit of Department of State Actions To Prevent Unlawful Trafficking in Persons Practices When Executing Security, Construction, and Facility and Household Services Contracts at Overseas Posts (AUD-MERO-22-28)* stressed the importance of combating TIP in contracting and improving CO and CORs’ efforts in reviewing and monitoring contractors’ compliance plans.

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RECOMMENDATIONS STATUS

as of August 31, 2023

1,026* Open Recommendations	46** Recommendations Closed During August
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[View Recommendations](#)

*Includes 46 recommendations associated with the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) and excludes one unclassified State Department report with one recommendation that is resolved.

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

Reports

Ongoing Work

In response to a recommendation in a 2021 report, the Bureau of Administration provided documentation showing a review of all unliquidated obligations that resulted in putting \$160,112 to better use. *Inspection of the Bureau of Administration, Office of Overseas Schools (ISP-I-21-32)* included a recommendation that the bureau should require the Office of Overseas Schools to review its unliquidated obligations in accordance with Department guidelines and put up to \$3.05 million to better use.

NOTABLE OPEN RECOMMENDATION

In the August 2022 report, *Inspection of the American Institute in Taiwan, Washington Headquarters (ISP-I-22-22)*, OIG recommended the Bureau of the Comptroller and Global Financial Services, in coordination with the American Institute in Taiwan, Washington Headquarters, should oversee the institute’s financial operations as required by Department standards and the contract. However, the Department’s latest compliance response to the recommendation is overdue by 222 days as of August 31.

REPORTS ISSUED

- *Evaluation of Adjustments to the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Program From 2018 Through 2022* ([AUD-MERO-23-23](#))
- *Audit of Technical Security Following Reestablishment of Operations at U.S. Embassy Kyiv, Ukraine* (AUD-MERO-23-24) (Classified)

NEW WORK STARTED

- *Audit of the Department of State's Program Design Plan Related to Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors Act of 2022.*

AFGHANISTAN OVERSIGHT

In August, OIG released *Evaluation of Adjustments to the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Program From FY 2018 Through 2022* ([AUD-MERO-23-23](#)). OIG conducted this evaluation in response to congressional questions on Department efforts to streamline the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) process from 2018 through 2022, the impact of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) on the Afghan SIV applicant process, and the future of the Afghan SIV program. We found that the Department took actions beginning in February 2021 to streamline Afghan SIV applicant processing and mitigate some processing issues; however, as of December 2022, these actions had not eliminated the significant and growing Afghan SIV applicant backlog. OIG made two recommendations in a prior report ([AUD-MERO-23-01](#), October 2022) that are relevant to the findings discussed in this report. Both recommendations are currently open pending further action, and OIG encourages the Department to fully implement these recommendations. In addition, OIG found that the Department had not developed and

UKRAINE OVERSIGHT

In August, OIG released one classified report related to Ukraine oversight, *Audit of Technical Security Following Reestablishment of Operations at U.S. Embassy Kyiv, Ukraine* (AUD-MERO-23-24).

Also, Acting IG Diana Shaw joined fellow IGs from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and Department of Defense (DoD) on September 1 to meet with key anti-corruption officials from the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU), the Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office (SAPO), and the High Anti-Corruption Court (HACC) of Ukraine.

The OIGs and the Ukrainian delegation discussed the importance of the U.S.-Ukraine partnership in combatting the misuse of U.S. assistance. To signify this commitment to transparency and oversight, the leaders of State and USAID OIGs and the Ukrainian NABU delegation signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) that created formal information-sharing agreements and investigative collaboration to safeguard U.S. assistance to Ukraine.

A complete press release about this engagement can be found [here](#).

For complete lists of completed, ongoing, and planned work related to Ukraine, go [here](#).

implemented a strategic performance management approach to resolving the Afghan SIV applicant backlog, and made one new recommendation in this report to address this issue with the aim of improving Afghan SIV program outcomes.

For a complete list of completed, ongoing work, and planned work related to Afghanistan, go [here](#).



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