



U.S. Embassy Vienna, Austria

October 2023

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

A Department Contracting Officer (CO) was suspended for 14 days for misconduct related to official actions he took during an acquisition process. OIG special agents determined the CO had signed both a contract award and modification that was awarded to the employer of the CO’s fiancé. In addition, the CO passed information that was not available to other competitors. The CO previously received a warning memo about his conduct, and the fiancé was debarred for 3 years.

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In response to a recommendation from a 2023 report, the Department prepared draft Foreign Affairs Manual (FAM) guidance on the management and operation of watercraft to clarify responsibilities and internal controls worldwide. The report Inspection of Embassy Abuja and Constituent Post, Nigeria ([ISP-I-23-09](#)) had recommended that the Bureau of Administration, in coordination with the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations, update the FAM with specific guidance on the management and operation of watercraft because none existed.

NOTABLE OPEN RECOMMENDATION

In the 2019 report, *Audit of Monitoring and Evaluating Department of State Foreign Assistance in the Philippines* ([AUD-MERO-19-39](#)), OIG recommended that the Office of U.S. Foreign Assistance Resources enforce evaluation policies by developing and implementing an oversight plan. Such a plan would verify that bureaus and offices administering foreign assistance funding implement and adhere to the Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act of 2016, the FAM (18 FAM 301.4), and corresponding January 2018 Guidance for the Design, Monitoring, and Evaluation Policy at the Department. In its August 2023 response, the Foreign Assistance Resources stated that it was working on new

RECOMMENDATIONS STATUS

as of October 31, 2023

1,051*

Open
Recommendations

25**

Recommendations
Closed During October

[View Recommendations](#)

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

**Includes 8 recommendations closed on OIG’s classified network.

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revisions and restarting the process of moving forward with the update of 18 FAM 301.4. As this recommendation is still open, without the consistent application of a program definition, the Department’s ability to measure the results of programs providing foreign assistance in the Philippines is hindered, and evaluation results that are shared with the public and used to inform budgetary requests, planning decisions, and operational strategies may be incomplete.

REPORTS ISSUED

- *Independent Accountant’s Report on the Application of Agreed-Upon Procedures: Employee Benefits, Withholdings, Contributions, and Supplemental Semiannual Headcount Reporting Submitted to the Office of Personnel Management* ([AUD-FM-24-01](#))
- *Classified Inspection of Embassy Sofia, Bulgaria* (ISP-S-24-03)

- *Classified Review of Embassy Kyiv's Operating Status* (ISP-S-24-01)
- *Classified Inspection of American Institute in Taiwan-Taipei and Kaohsiung* (ISP-S-24-07)
- *Classified Inspection of Embassy Vienna, Austria* (ISP-S-24-04)

NEW WORK STARTED

- *Audit of the U.S. Agency for Global Media FY 2024 Information Security Program.*
- *Audit of the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, U.S.*

- *Section, FY 2024 Information Security Program.*
- *Audit of Department of State FY 2024 Information Security Program.*
- *Audit of Selected Contractor Requests for Equitable Adjustment Related to Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations' Construction Projects.*
- *Technical Assessment of the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, U.S. Section, Vulnerability and Configuration Management Processes.*
- *Audit of Department of State FY 2024 Compliance With the Geospatial Data Act of 2018.*

UKRAINE AND AFGHANISTAN OVERSIGHT

OIG released *FY 2024 Joint Strategic Oversight Plan for Operation Atlantic Resolve* ([JSOP-OAR](#)). This an annual plan submitted to Congress by the Lead IG for OAR. The plan includes the following sections:

- U.S. Government Activities Related to Ukraine
- Funding for U.S. Government Activities Related to OAR, Including Ukraine
- Strategic Oversight Areas
- Investigations and Hotlines
- Oversight Projects

During FY 2023, federal oversight agencies completed 38 reports related to OAR and Ukraine, and reported findings and recommendations to improve internal controls, reduce costs, ensure safety, and improve operational efficiencies. The oversight agencies are planning 96 projects for FY 2024.

OIG also issued a *Classified Review of Embassy Kyiv's Operating Status* (ISP-S-24-01).



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