



WORK PLAN RELEASED

OIG released its [Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2025](#). This annual plan identifies audits, inspections, evaluations, and other activities planned to advance OIG’s oversight mission and serves as a catalyst for positive change within the U.S. Department of State (Department), U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM), and the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC).

Among criteria used in the development of the work plan are:

- Major management challenges facing the Department and USAGM as identified by OIG.
- Stakeholder priorities that promote efficiency and effectiveness in the execution of foreign policy.
- Congressional mandates.
- New or changing conditions affecting the programs and operations of the Department, USAGM, and USIBWC.
- Availability of resources and expertise.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Also in September, one former government employee, two contractors, and two contract companies were debarred for 3 years for their roles in a bribery conspiracy. The two co-conspirators and former USAGM Contracting Officer (CO) were previously sentenced to prison. OIG and FBI special agents had detected fraud involving the CO and two individuals from late 2014 to 2016.

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In response to a recommendation in the December 2021 report, *Inspection of the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs (ISP-I-22-06)*, the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs provided documentation showing it had reviewed and deobligated all invalid obligations without activity for more than 1 year. This resulted in over \$2.7 million being put to better use.

SPOTLIGHTS ON SUCCESS

Funding Linked to Strategies Provided Flexibility and Coherence (*Inspection of the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, ISP-I-24-16*)

RECOMMENDATIONS STATUS*

as of September 30, 2024

1,033**

Open
Recommendations

57***

Recommendations
Closed During September

[View Recommendations](#)

- * OIG delivers monthly SBU/classified recommendation reports to Congressional committees of jurisdiction.
- ** Includes 56 recommendations associated with the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC). Total also excludes 1 Department classified report with 2 resolved recommendations (1 was resolved and 1 was closed).
- ***Includes 19 recommendations closed on OIG’s classified network.

[Reports](#)

[Ongoing Work](#)

To address issues with the Department’s ability to directing Foreign Military Financing funds to cross-cutting priorities or emerging needs, the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs developed criteria-driven proposal processes for allocating certain funding to meet specific strategic objectives, building on approaches already used within the Peacekeeping Operations account. The process allowed the bureau to respond with greater agility to changing country conditions, make decisions on funding allocations closer to when funds were available to be used, and align funding with Department of Defense security assistance planning cycles.

NOTABLE OPEN RECOMMENDATION

In the October 2018 report, *Review of Allegations of Improper Passport Seizures at Embassy Sana’a, Yemen (ESP-19-01)*, OIG recommended that the Bureau of Consular Affairs, Office of Passport Services, in conjunction with the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, develop centralized, searchable databases to track and manage passport revocation cases, as well as retentions of passports and other documents seized on suspicion of fraud when citizens apply for consular services, or under

other circumstances, and to track confiscations of such documents if they are seized on grounds other than retention authority. Acting on this recommendation, open since 2018, would ensure that the Department has the ability to keep track of any consular documents confiscated from citizens. The Department concurred with this recommendation, but it remains open.

NEW WORK STARTED

- *Technical Assessment of the U.S. Agency for Global Media’s Vulnerability and Configuration Management Processes*

- *Inspection of Embassy Algiers, Algeria*
- *Inspection of Embassy Ankara, Türkiye and Constituent Posts*
- *Inspection of Embassy Doha, Qatar*
- *Inspection of Embassy Harare, Zimbabwe*
- *Inspection of Embassy Lusaka, Zambia*
- *Inspection of Embassy Muscat, Oman*
- *Inspection of Embassy Tunis, Tunisia*
- *Inspection of the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs*
- *Review of Leahy Vetting Processes in Select Countries with*

UKRAINE AND AFGHANISTAN OVERSIGHT

Review of Leahy Vetting Processes in Select Countries with Leahy Ineligible Unit Agreements

Ukraine-related activities of the Department are a top priority and in September OIG announced a review of the Leahy vetting process. Leahy vetting is the process of determining whether the Department has credible information that units or individuals proposed to benefit from security assistance have committed gross violations of human rights. However, in some circumstances, such vetting cannot be conducted prior to the delivery of assistance because the ultimate recipient is not known. U.S. law requires a written agreement with the recipient government that it will not assist ineligible units. As of September 2024, 22 such agreements, including with Israel and Ukraine, were in effect. OIG will examine the Department’s implementation of the law and, for select countries, Leahy vetting practices where the assistance’s ultimate recipient is not known before transfer.

The preliminary objectives of this review are to determine whether the Department: (1) has developed policies and procedures for instances where recipient units cannot be identified prior to the transfer of assistance; and (2) is implementing Leahy law requirements in accordance with policies and procedures in select countries.

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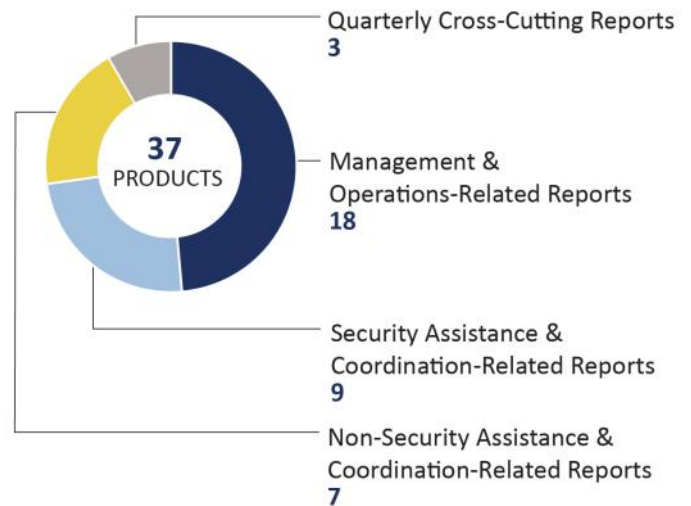
In September, OIG released *FY 2023 NDAA Section 5275 Mandated Review of the Department of State Efforts to Support and Process*

Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Applicants and Other Afghan Evacuees (AUD-GEER-24-28). OIG incorporated requirements of Section 5275 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023, Public Law 117-263, into its ongoing work related to Afghan special immigrant visas (SIVs).

For complete lists of work involving Ukraine, go [here](#).

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

UKRAINE COMPLETED OVERSIGHT WORK



TOTAL RECOMMENDATIONS	OTHER PRODUCTS	ONGOING & PLANNED OVERSIGHT PROJECTS
211	4	20

REPORT RECAP



September 2024

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

[Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2025](#)

This annual plan identifies audits, inspections, evaluations, and other activities planned to advance OIG's oversight mission.

[Audit of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research's Implementation of Emerging Technology \(AUD-IT-24-33\)](#)

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

[Management Alert: Physical Security Deficiencies Identified at U.S. Embassy Jerusalem, Israel, Agron Compound \(MA-24-02\)](#)

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

[Management Assistance Report: The Department Would Benefit From a Formal, Systematic Methodology To Capture and Utilize Lessons Learned Following Post Evacuations \(AUD-GEER-24-32\)](#)

OIG found that the Department had not established a consistent, comprehensive method to capture lessons learned following post drawdowns, evacuations, and suspensions of operations in the two types of Department lessons learned reports OIG identified: (1) Lessons Learned Cables, collected by the Office of Crisis Management and Strategy, and (2) After Action Reviews produced by the Bureau of Diplomatic Security.

[Supplemental Classified Report on the Audit of the Disposition of Sensitive Security Assets at U.S. Embassies Kabul, Afghanistan and Kyiv, Ukraine \(AUD-GEER-24-31\)](#)

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

[Management Assistance Report: Warrant and Training Programs Needed for Personnel Responsible for Transportation-Related Acquisitions \(AUD-FM-24-30\)](#)

OIG found the Department had not established a transportation officer warrant program for General Services Officers who acquire shipping and storage services using tenders. The Department also failed to establish a training program for personnel responsible for making transportation-related acquisitions. OIG made two recommendations that it considers resolved.

[FY 2023 NDAA Section 5275 Mandated Review of the Department of State Efforts to Support Process Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Applicants and Other Afghan Evacuees \(AUD-GEER-24-28\)](#)

See summary of report under "Ukraine and Afghanistan Oversight" above.

[Special Review of the Department of State's Handling of the Security Clearance Suspension of the Special Envoy for Iran \(ESP-24-01\)](#)

OIG found that Department officials generally followed standard procedures in the suspension of Special Envoy Robert Malley's security clearance. However, the Department deviated from the way that suspensions are typically delivered, there was a lack of standard policies for political appointees and a lack of supervision, and the Department did not report allegations against Malley to OIG, as required. OIG made five recommendations and considers three resolved and two closed.

[Inspection of the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs \(ISP-I-24-16\)](#)

OIG found the bureau's Assistant Secretary and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary demonstrated Department leadership and management principles to communicate and foster resilience. Among issues, bureau staffing did not keep pace with workload growth and had deficiencies in grants management, including the lack of full and open competition for assistance awards. OIG made 21 recommendations and considers 20 resolved.

[Classified Inspection of the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs \(ISP-S-24-16A\)](#)

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



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.