



U.S. Embassy Sofia, Bulgaria

August 2021

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

In August 2021, a company president and four of his employees were sentenced for engaging in an extensive procurement fraud scheme involving more than \$7 million in government contracts. These contracts targeted the Department of Defense, Department of State, and other federal government agencies. The owner was sentenced to 58 months in prison, and his four employees were sentenced to a combined 93 months in prison. OIG special agents, in a joint investigation with the Defense Criminal Investigative Service and other agencies, determined that the company falsely declared goods pertaining to Department contracts were in compliance with the Buy America Act when in fact they were not. The co-conspirators fraudulently imported goods into the United States that were made in prohibited countries, then falsely relabeled the goods as if they were made in the United States. In December 2020, the individuals pled guilty to conspiring to defraud the United States.

SPOTLIGHTS ON SUCCESS

Bureau Efforts Help to Build \$10 Billion International Linear Collider in Japan (*Inspection of the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, [ISP-I-21-23](#)*)

The Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES), and specifically the Department’s Office of Science and Technology, led a diplomatic whole-of-government U.S. engagement strategy with international partners that secured support for the U.S. proposal to build the International Linear Collider (ILC) in Japan over a competing Chinese proposal to locate it in China.

In 2019, the Office of Science and Technology worked with the Department of Energy and the White House in extensive outreach efforts that led to Japan’s willingness in early 2020 to begin international discussions on the collider. In June 2020, the European Organization for Nuclear Research announced its support for locating the ILC in Japan. In response, China announced in August 2020 that it would discontinue its separate supercollider project. OES intends to use this success as a model for engagement on other major projects, particularly those in fusion energy, high-intensity lasers, and other radiation sources where China may be a competing investor.

Daily Systems Monitoring Report Increases Awareness of Information Management Section Operations (*Inspection of Embassy Praia, Cabo Verde, [ISP-I-21-31](#)*)

Embassy Praia’s information management staff produced a daily system monitoring report and included the Management Officer,

RECOMMENDATIONS STATUS

as of August 31, 2021

602*

Open
Recommendations

37

Recommendations
Closed During August

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*Classified recommendations are not included in these totals since their status is currently unavailable due to COVID-19 remote working conditions. This total also includes 30 recommendations associated with IBWC.

Regional Security Officer, and the Deputy Chief of Mission in its distribution. This comprehensive report provided details on a broad range of data, such as the embassy’s iPost cyber risk score, users’ mandatory training, incoming pouches, a list of outstanding customer support requests by date, cybersecurity incidents, voice over internet protocol telephone operational status, environmental conditions in the server room and telephone switch room, and internet latency issues on embassy circuits and at U.S. direct-hire residences. Sending this information to embassy management increased awareness of section operations and allowed embassy management to take a proactive approach to IT support.

OSAC Successfully Hosts Inaugural Virtual Annual Briefing (*Inspection of the Bureau of Diplomatic Security’s Overseas Security Advisory Council Program Office, [ISP-I-21-33](#)*)

The Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) Program Office hosted its annual briefing in 2020 virtually for the first time. The OSAC Annual Briefing, one of the Department’s largest annual events, is a forum for security professionals from the Department and representatives from the U.S. private sector to discuss best practices and emerging issues, as well as collectively review lessons learned from recent global events. The virtual briefing attracted nearly 2,000 participants, its highest attendance ever. The program included more than 20 hours of presentations and panels, 60 interactive member engagement sessions, 79 speakers and moderators, and 51 discussion facilitators.

This transition to a virtual environment offered an opportunity for OSAC members and security professionals from U.S. companies, nongovernmental organizations, academia, and faith-based organizations to engage and discuss issues such as the

global security environment facing U.S. organizations. A post-event survey showed a 9 percent increase in first-time attendees, showcasing the event's popularity. Additionally, the virtual environment afforded opportunities for smaller organizations with limited budgets and personnel to attend. OSAC Program Office staff described the virtual event as the broadest outreach to the OSAC security community in its 36-year history.

NEW WORK STARTED

- *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*
- *Inspection of Embassy Santiago, Chile*
- *Inspection of Embassy Montevideo, Uruguay*
- *Inspection of Embassy Pristina, Kosovo*
- *Inspection of Embassy Athens, Greece, and Constituent Post*
- *Inspection of Embassy Budapest, Hungary*
- *Inspection of Embassy Sofia, Bulgaria*
- *Inspection of the Bureau of Diplomatic Security, Office of the Diplomatic Courier Service*
- *Inspection of the Global Engagement Center*
- *Review of Repatriation Flights from Wuhan, China in Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic*
- *Review of the U.S. Agency for Global Media's Compliance with Editorial Independence and Journalistic Standards and Principle*

REPORTS ISSUED

- *Compliance Follow-Up Audit of the Department of State Process To Select and Approve IT Investments ([AUD-IT-21-34](#))*
- *Audit of the Bureau of Diplomatic Security's Process To Verify That Purchased Protective Equipment Complied With Performance and Contractual Requirements ([AUD-SI-21-39](#))*
- *Audit of Official and Diplomatic Passport Records Maintained by the Bureau of Consular Affairs ([AUD-SI-21-40](#))*
- *Inspection of the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs ([ISP-I-21-23](#))*
- *Inspection of Embassy Praia, Cabo Verde ([ISP-I-21-31](#))*
- *Inspection of the Office of the Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary ([ISP-I-21-30](#))*
- *Inspection of the Bureau of Diplomatic Security's Overseas Security Advisory Council Program Office ([ISP-I-21-33](#))*
- *Lead Inspector General for Operation Inherent Resolve | Quarterly Report to the United States Congress | April 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021 ([August 3, 2021](#))*
- *Lead Inspector General for Operation Freedom's Sentinel | Quarterly Report to the United States Congress | April 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021 ([August 17, 2021](#))*



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