



HIGHLIGHTS

Office of Inspector General
United States Department of State

ISP-I-21-30

What OIG Inspected

OIG inspected the executive direction, policy implementation, operational effectiveness, and resource management of the Office of the Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary.

What OIG Recommends

OIG made 5 recommendations to the Office of the Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary.

In its comments on the draft report, the Office of the Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary concurred with all 5 recommendations. OIG considers all 5 recommendations resolved. The Office of the Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary's response to each recommendation, and OIG's reply, can be found in the Recommendations section of this report. The office's formal written response is reprinted in its entirety in Appendix B.

August 2021

OFFICE OF INSPECTIONS
DOMESTIC OPERATIONS

Inspection of the Office of the Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary

What OIG Found

- Frequent turnover in the Office of the Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary (STAS) leadership positions created challenges for the office.
- STAS advanced U.S. foreign policy in a number of science and technology areas but did not always coordinate or clear its activity within the Department of State and through the interagency policy process.
- The office did not use its Functional Bureau Strategy to facilitate, coordinate, and improve office performance.
- STAS had not coordinated its new Regional Technology Officer program with the existing Regional Environmental Officer program, which also has regional technology policy responsibilities.
- Lack of a clearly defined and Department-approved mandate impeded STAS's ability to advance science and technology policy in the Department and abroad.
- The office provided the Department with widely valued science and technology expertise through its science fellowship programs but did not have a Contracting Officer's Representative to properly manage the contracts associated with two fellowship programs.
- Spotlight on Success: STAS successfully worked with other U.S. Government agencies, non-governmental institutions, academia, and other bureaus and offices within the Department to advance the candidacy of the United States as the new host of the World Data System's International Program Office.