



Management Implication Report Summary: Passport Security and Accountability

Report Date: February 21, 2025

Report Number: OIG-25-024

Subject: Management Implication Report 24-0012-I, Resulting from Investigation into Alleged Theft of Passports at the Stennis Secure Production Facility (SSPF), Mississippi.

In April 2024, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) visited the SSPF to conduct tailored outreach for its employees. During this visit, we heard concerns about the security and accountability of U.S. passports. Out of an abundance of caution and due to the potential national security risks, we notified the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Mississippi. Subsequently, the case was accepted for potential federal criminal investigation. The criminal investigation sought to determine if there were violations of 18 U.S.C. § 1543 – Forgery or False Use of Passport, and 18 U.S.C. § 1028A – Aggravated Identity Theft.

In November 2024, the FBI and GPO OIG completed the criminal investigation and did not substantiate any federal criminal violations. The GPO OIG continued to investigate the matter as an administrative investigation. We identified vulnerabilities regarding accountability for passport documents but did not substantiate intentional misconduct by GPO employees. The vulnerabilities pose a risk to passport integrity and accountability, warranting improvement. As a result, we made two recommendations to GPO management.

Recommendation 1: Develop and implement a written procedure or methodology to account for passports removed from the production line. The procedure/methodology should annotate the type of document taken, the purpose for its removal, the quantity taken, and the identity of the person responsible. An automated computer-based process is also recommended.

Recommendation 2: Develop and implement a policy detailing how passports and passport documents should be securely stored in offices, including PII storage.