

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
INVESTIGATIONS



INVESTIGATIVE CASE SUMMARIES



April 2020

In April 2020, OIG was notified that a grantee organization was ordered to return \$351,188 from a grant and \$893,784 from a co-operative agreement for failing to fulfill its obligation to organize and promote youth football throughout multiple provinces in Afghanistan. After receiving a referral from the grants officer and OIG's Office of Audits, OIG special agents determined the organization had been submitting false claims to the Department and trying to conceal its actions. The organization did not organize tournaments, purchase equipment, or provide training as promised but continued to invoice the Department as if the services were provided. In addition, the Department de-obligated \$392,536 from the grant and suspended three individuals and the grantee organization.

In April 2020, the Department issued a letter of admonishment to a Financial Management Officer (FMO) for showing poor judgment in the performance of official duties. OIG special agents determined that from November 2013 to June 2015, the employee approved funding in the amount of \$28,569 for 11 purchase orders to a local company that employed the FMO's spouse, creating the appearance of a conflict of interest.

In April 2020, a contract company reimbursed the Department \$371,327 for overbilling. OIG special agents, in close coordination with the contracting officer, determined that a sub-contractor and two of its vendors overcharged the Department for contractor-related airline travel from December 2014 through February 2019.

In April 2020, a locally employed staff member was terminated after stealing funds that were meant to support the Embassy's social security organization. OIG and Diplomatic Security special agents learned that the former voucher examiner accepted cash deposits from the Embassy employee recreation association and, instead of depositing the funds, kept the money to pay bills.

In April 2020, a former Department contractor was ordered to pay \$629 as a result of unauthorized use and mishandling of Department equipment. OIG special agents concluded the contractor knowingly received and retained, without authorization, an Apple iPad and iPhone. In addition to failing to enter the equipment into the Department's inventory system, the contractor made misrepresentations and concealed material facts from OIG. In November 2019, the contractor was debarred for 3 years.