

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



INVESTIGATIVE CASE SUMMARIES



March 2020

In March 2020, the Department issued letters of admonishment to two U.S. Government Purchase Card holders for failure to follow Federal Acquisition Regulations. OIG special agents determined that, from 2013 through 2015, the cardholders routinely approved transactions they knew to be split purchases that were intended to avoid exceeding the \$3,000 micro-purchase threshold. Final adjudication concerning a supervisor's role in the matter is still pending.

In March 2020, a Department employee and spouse agreed to pay an administrative settlement to resolve allegations that they defrauded the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, Foreign Service Benefit Plan through the submission of false claims for reimbursement of services from 2013 through 2015.

In March 2020, the Department suspended and proposed debarment for three grantee organization employees who submitted false claims to the Government. OIG special agents determined that, from September 2016 through August 2017, while administering a grant program to improve radio and television broadcasting skills for journalism students throughout Afghanistan, the individuals submitted false claims for the salary for a manager position at one of the media operations center even though this position never existed. The Department had also recovered \$21,900 from the grantee organization in November 2019.

In March 2020, a former contracting officer representative who served as a facilities maintenance supervisor resigned after it was discovered he did not disclose, as required, outside business employment and activities to the U.S. Embassy where he worked. OIG special agents determined the former employee worked with the same contractors in the scope of his official duties and in his outside business activities. In addition, the employee solicited a gift from a prohibited source and knowingly made misrepresentations regarding material facts to OIG.