



**United States Department of State
and the Broadcasting Board of Governors
Office of Inspector General**

Inspection of Embassy Brasilia and Constituent Posts, Brazil



Embassy Brasilia

During its inspection of Embassy Brasilia, OIG found the Ambassador had re-invigorated the important bilateral relationship with Brazil, a regional powerhouse with potential to act as a counter balance to the populist nationalism promoted by Venezuela. Brazilians welcomed his willingness to travel extensively throughout the country, but embassy section chiefs and heads of other agencies reported that the number of initiatives and their lack of understanding of the Ambassador's prioritization had inhibited their ability to meet mandated goals and objectives.

The nonimmigrant visa workload had grown at a pace that far exceeded long-range forecasts. Lengthy wait times for visa appointments had hurt the image of the United States. Brazil's consular operations were seriously under resourced and morale had suffered. Additional officer positions had been approved, but even more new officer positions were needed to rightsize consular operations.

Narcotics assistance programs in Brazil had largely been suspended while the mission tightened management controls and oversight. Resuming these important programs will require more verifiable agreements with Brazilian authorities and better information-sharing and coordination among the mission's many law enforcement agencies.

The U.S. Mission to Brazil had approved a number of new American direct-hire positions, primarily for other agencies, but the Ambassador's decision to approve was not based on a complete summary of all costs related to the staffing expansion, nor did the justifications clarify how the responsibilities of these new positions would differ from similar existing positions already operating within Brazil.

The performance of Embassy Brasilia's management had been handicapped by lapses in oversight that have resulted in significant management control weaknesses, particularly in the travel program in Brasilia and in contracting and property in Rio de Janeiro. The regional security program received high marks from the Ambassador, DCM, and the mission community; however, due to the Ambassador's robust travel schedule coupled with the quantity of high-profile visits basic security programs were beginning to show signs of neglect.

Office of Inspector General

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