



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

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## Inspection of the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

The Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES) implements U.S. commitments in a multitude of international forums and promotes U.S. foreign policy through a new array of partnerships. However, Office of Inspector General (OIG) found that a lack of clarity about the roles of OES and the Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary of State has caused confusion in Washington and abroad. The Department of State must define the roles, responsibilities, authority, and accountability of OES and the science adviser.

OES also coordinates and promotes U.S. foreign policy with U.S. agencies involved in science, technology and the environment. OES melds competing agencies' views and agendas into coherent U.S. policies and negotiating positions and frequently leads the interagency process, bringing together representatives of federal Departments such as Defense with representatives of such specialized scientific organizations as the National Science Foundation and the Smithsonian Institution. Generally, OIG found that federal agencies respect and appreciate the bureau's work and leadership.

The personnel structure and resource allocation of OES are being rebuilt to focus on its science capability after having focused upon its environmental and HIV/AIDS priorities. The bureau recreated the deputy assistant secretary for science and health position in 2000 but has not succeeded in keeping the position filled.

OIG also found three areas needing the attention of bureau leadership:

- The executive office's support to the bureau must improve.
- Attention is needed on executive office management, human resource operations, and management controls.
- The bureau needs to clarify the goals and procedures of its grants program, which OES uses to stimulate cooperation and promote its priorities. The grants process should be more transparent to OES staff and for embassies where there is an interest in submitting grant proposals.

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**OIG Report ISP-I-05-40, Inspection of the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs**  
The fieldwork for this report was conducted by the Office of Inspections between May 15 and July 15, 2005. This is an unclassified summary of a full report, which receives limited official distribution. This report summary, and the inspection report, reflects the conditions at post during the period of the fieldwork.

### Office of Inspector General

OIG conducts independent audits, inspections, and investigations that advance the missions of the Department of State and the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG). OIG provides leadership to: promote integrity, efficiency, effectiveness, and economy; prevent and detect waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement; identify vulnerabilities and recommend constructive solutions; offer expert assistance to improve Department and BBG operations; communicate timely, useful information that facilitates decision-making and achieves measurable gains; and keep the Department, BBG, and the Congress fully and currently informed.

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