

D&CP – OFFICE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

Resource Summary

(\$ in thousands)

Appropriations	FY 2010 Actual	FY 2011 CR	FY 2012 Request
Funds	4,177	4,177	8,336

Program Description

The Office of Foreign Missions (OFM) was established pursuant to the Foreign Missions Act of 1982. Its primary missions are to:

- Facilitate relations between the United States and foreign governments;
- Protect the national security and other interests of the U.S.;
- Assist in resolving disputes affecting U.S. interests involving a foreign mission or sending state;
- Encourage members of foreign missions and international organizations with diplomatic immunity to respect local law;
- Advocate for better treatment of U.S. diplomatic missions and personnel abroad;
- Ensure the application of reciprocity to the benefits and services accorded foreign diplomatic missions in the U.S. and assist such missions in addressing local legal requirements and working with local officials; and
- Serve foreign diplomats by operating programs for diplomatic motor vehicles, tax, customs, property, and travel and ensure appropriate benefits and services to the foreign mission community in the United States on a reciprocal basis.

Foreign Tax Relief Agreements

OFM aggressively pursues arrangements for the relief of foreign taxes imposed on U.S. diplomatic and consular missions worldwide. OFM leads negotiations for tax-relief arrangements for the Department's foreign diplomatic operations, with an emphasis on high cost capital construction projects under the Capital Security Cost Sharing Program. Since FY 2005, OFM's efforts have led to the establishment of roughly 50 construction tax-relief arrangements which are expected to yield an estimated cost savings in excess of \$330 million. In FY 2012 OFM will negotiate construction tax-relief arrangements to cover the overseas construction projects scheduled for award. OFM resources are used to achieve maximum benefit for the Department's tax-relief requirements.

Services for the Foreign Diplomatic, Consular, U.N. and International Agency Communities in the U.S.

OFM provides a wide variety of services to thousands of diplomats and staff at more than 170 Embassies, 200 UN missions, and 700 foreign consulates nationwide. OFM also provides critical support to the Secretary of State's Office of the Chief of Protocol (S/CPR), which enabled that office to process approximately 50,000 accreditations for members of the foreign diplomatic community and international organizations in the U.S. With requested funding, OFM will enhance its ability to provide reciprocal services as described above, which benefits U.S. Government operations abroad.

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The Office of Foreign Missions Information System (TOMIS)

This critically important system collects and transmits valuable information and service requests from foreign embassies, UN missions, and international organizations using e-Government (paperless) technology throughout the government to appropriate agencies. System upgrades will support additional business processes that are currently paper-based thus simplifying administration of the data and, most importantly, providing faster and more reliable access to critical data for the broad and growing OFM user community. This user community encompasses an array of federal, state, and local law enforcement and security entities which must rely on and make use of the TOMIS data. On a 24/7/365 basis, OFM's TOMIS database provides support to OFM duty officers and the Diplomatic Security Command Center, as a vitally important tool to respond to official and law enforcement inquiries involving the foreign diplomatic community resident in the United States.

Federal Income Tax Withholdings and Compliance

OFM continues to identify information sharing opportunities that support other government agencies. In FY 2012, OFM information will allow the Internal Revenue Service to increase the compliance efforts with regard to locally engaged staff members of foreign missions in the United States who are required to comply with federal and state income tax filing requirements. The cooperation between OFM and the IRS is expected to further increase the rate of compliance by such individuals through consistent enforcement and heightened awareness and understanding of the relevant federal, state and local income tax laws.

Import Clearance for Foreign Missions

In accordance with the Safe Port Act of 2006 and the Foreign Missions Act, OFM continues to work with representatives of the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection to implement a single electronic portal through which OFM collects and distributes information associated with the clearance of imports consigned to foreign missions, international organizations and their members in the United States. The system must adhere to OMB requirements for Service Component Based Architecture and will allow OFM to achieve the requirements defined in the Federal Enterprise Architecture and the Joint Enterprise Architecture.

OFM Regional Offices – Foreign Mission Community (exclusive of Washington, D.C.)

The Office of Foreign Missions includes six regional offices located in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Houston, and Miami. Regional Offices extend the Department's reach to local and state governmental partners as well as serve the growing consular and international community outside Washington through the OFM programs of property, tax exemption, importation/customs clearance, travel restrictions, and motor vehicles. Local partnerships established by Regional Offices benefit both the Department and the U.S. Government as a whole. An as example, in 2009 Chicago was placed in the top 5 cities that may host the 2016 Olympics. The City of Chicago was interested in providing smooth and hassle free diplomatic and consular VIP travel through O'Hare Airport to showcase the exceptional service provided to the international community. The Chicago OFM Regional Office brokered several meetings and discussions with U.S. Department of Homeland Security, City of Chicago, and the Bureau of Consular Affairs that resulted in an agreement to facilitate this program at O'Hare Airport. The diverse and increasing responsibilities of Regional Offices have grown in past years. There may also be an extension of responsibilities to the Regional Offices in the case of an emergency that affects regional or national foreign missions.

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Outreach

The Office of Foreign Missions establishes and maintains professional liaison relationships with a variety of U.S. law enforcement and security entities at the federal, state, and local levels. OFM seeks to expand its law enforcement outreach program work in FY 2012 to educate these entities on OFM's programs as well as on diplomatic privilege and immunity issues. These outreach and training seminars are often carried out in conjunction with other representatives from the DS Bureau, the Bureau of Consular Affairs, and the Office of Protocol.

TSA Screening Courtesies

As an advocate for reciprocal agreements, OFM presses for the fair treatment of U.S. missions and personnel abroad, while assuring foreign missions and their member resident in the United States receive the same treatment that their respective governments provide in return to U.S. diplomats abroad. In coordination with the Transportation Security Administration, the Office of Foreign Missions manages the VIP airport screening exemption program throughout the United States.

Motor Vehicle Compliance

OFM's Motor Vehicle Office, pursuant to the Foreign Missions Act of 1982 and the 1978 Diplomatic Relations Act, ensures that diplomats and foreign missions carry federally mandated high levels of liability insurance while also addressing the problems that arise with diplomats who commit motor vehicle infractions, but whose immunity prevents them from being subject to the jurisdiction of U.S. courts. OFM performs this critical function to protect public safety throughout the U.S. and it is severely understaffed.

In addition, this office ensures that U.S. missions abroad enjoy important and reciprocally balanced motor vehicle privileges and treatment. OFM is working to build upon the highly successful introduction of a more secure diplomatic license plate by designing and launching a new Department of State Drivers' License. This license will substantially comply with the implementing regulations for the REAL ID Act of 2005, and thereby meet critically important Department of Homeland Security equities.

Custodial Properties

In accordance with the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic and Consular Relations, the Office of Foreign Missions has the responsibility to protect and preserve diplomatic and consular properties of foreign governments with which the United States has severed diplomatic relations. OFM is also the designated custodian of 11 Iranian diplomatic and consular properties throughout the United States. Over the years OFM has had custody of properties belonging to the governments of Cambodia, Iran, Iraq, Somalia, Vietnam, and the former Yugoslavia. OFM's superior care of these properties has greatly benefited the Department when relations have been restored. In the case of Vietnam, for example, when relations were restored the superior condition of its former chancery in the United States stood in marked contrast to the condition of the Department's diplomatic properties in Vietnam and, as a result, the Department was able to negotiate a favorable property settlement.

Justification of Request

The FY 2012 request of \$8.366 million reflects a regularization of \$4.231 million in base level operational funding for security programs previously funded by reimbursements from other agencies.

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The request includes an efficiency savings reduction of \$92,000 and domestic inflation increase of \$20,000.

Resource Summary

	Positions				Funds (\$ in thousands)			
	American			FSN	Pos Total	Bureau Managed	American Salaries	Funds Total
	CS	FS Dom	Overseas					
FY 2010 Actual	0	0	0	0	0	4,177	0	4,177
FY 2011 CR	0	0	0	0	0	4,177	0	4,177
FY 2012 Built-in Changes								
Efficiency Savings	0	0	0	0	0	(92)	0	(92)
Domestic Inflation	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	20
Total Built-in Changes	0	0	0	0	0	(72)	0	(72)
FY 2012 Current Services	0	0	0	0	0	4,105	0	4,105
FY 2012 Program Changes								
Base Transfer Security Program	0	0	0	0	0	4,231	0	4,231
Total Program Changes	0	0	0	0	0	4,231	0	4,231
FY 2012 Request	0	0	0	0	0	8,336	0	8,336

Funds by Program Activity

(\$ in thousands)

Office of Foreign Missions	FY 2010 Actual	FY 2011 CR	FY 2012 Request
Conduct of Diplomatic Relations	2,662	2,840	5,235
Bureau Direction	2,662	2,840	5,235
Domestic Administrative Support	374	292	559
Bureau Direction	374	292	559
Information Resource Management	1,060	961	2,226
Office Automation	1,060	961	2,226
Policy Formulation	81	84	316
Political Affairs	81	84	316
Total	4,177	4,177	8,336

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Program Activities

Department Of State	Positions			Funds (\$ in thousands)			
	American		FSN	Pos	Bureau Managed	American Salaries	Funds Total
	Domestic	Overseas		Total			
Conduct of Diplomatic Relations	0	0	0	0	5,235	0	5,235
Bureau Direction	0	0	0	0	5,235	0	5,235
Domestic Administrative Support	0	0	0	0	559	0	559
Bureau Direction	0	0	0	0	559	0	559
Information Resource Management	0	0	0	0	2,226	0	2,226
Office Automation	0	0	0	0	2,226	0	2,226
Policy Formulation	0	0	0	0	316	0	316
Political Affairs	0	0	0	0	316	0	316
Total	0	0	0	0	8,336	0	8,336

Funds by Domestic Organization Unit

(\$ in thousands)

Office of Foreign Missions	FY 2010 Actual	FY 2011 CR	FY 2012 Request
Chicago Field Office	197	242	476
Houston Field Office	213	209	510
Los Angeles Field Office	268	226	551
Miami Field Office	228	188	449
New York Field Office	318	297	726
Office of Information Management	1,131	990	2,412
Office of Property, Taxes, Services, and Benefits	368	297	820
Office of Vehicles, Tax, Customs	861	627	1,310
Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary	382	889	585
San Francisco Field Office	211	212	497
Total	4,177	4,177	8,336

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Funds by Object Class

(\$ in thousands)

Office of Foreign Missions	FY 2010 Actual	FY 2011 CR	FY 2012 Request
1100 Personnel Compensation	1,741	1,793	3,963
1200 Personnel Benefits	627	645	1,394
2100 Travel & Trans of Persons	89	99	187
2500 Other Services	1,603	1,481	2,552
2600 Supplies and Materials	117	159	240
Total	4,177	4,177	8,336