

D&CP – OFFICE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

Resource Summary

(\$ in thousands)

Appropriations	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Estimate	FY 2013 Request	Increase / Decrease
Funds	4,089	3,937	3,975	38

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 United States;
- Assist in resolving disputes affecting United States 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 United States 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.

Services for the Foreign Diplomatic, Consular, United Nations (UN), and International Agency Communities in the U.S.

OFM provides a wide variety of services to thousands of foreign diplomats and staff at more than 190 Embassies, 220 U.N. missions, 46 Organization of American States (OAS) missions, 78 international organizations, and 700 foreign consulates, as well as their associated offices, 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 United States. OFM will enhance its ability to provide reciprocal services as described above, which benefits U.S. operations abroad.

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 of State'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 77 construction tax-relief arrangements which have thus far resulted in savings of \$220 million and, as projects get underway, will yield an estimated total cost savings in excess of \$330 million. This equates to a return on taxpayer investment of nearly 3,000 percent in real money with respect to the annual cost of OFM tax relief operations. Appropriately resourced, in FY 2013 OFM will negotiate construction tax-relief arrangements to cover the overseas construction projects scheduled for award. Additional OFM resources are required to achieve maximum benefit for the Department of State's tax-relief requirements.

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The Office of Foreign Missions Information System (TOMIS)

TOMIS is a repository of data that encompasses the entire foreign diplomatic community duly notified to the U.S Government who are working at foreign embassies and consulates, UN and OAS missions, and international organizations throughout the United States and its territories. TOMIS supports the entire spectrum of OFM and the Office of the Chief of Protocol (S/CPR) programs as listed herein. This critically important system employs e-Government (paperless) technology to collect and transmit valuable information and service requests from the foreign diplomatic community. Evolving business requirements, and modifications to business processes, continue to place a demand for changes to TOMIS to ensure rapid and reliable system access to critical data for the broad and growing OFM user community. This user community encompasses an array of inter-agency 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 throughout the United States. Such queries include issues of public safety and security such as authenticating identification cards, traffic stops, and aiding police response to emergency or criminal incidents. Less time sensitive, yet equally valuable, are queries on tax liabilities which have led to increased revenue for state and local governments.

Changes to the operational infrastructure that will improve the survivability of TOMIS are underway, such as transitions to cloud technology and consolidating servers and data to secure Department of State data centers. Additional functionality is being incorporated to support the evolving demands for TOMIS data and process changes. In FY 2012, TOMIS will be redesigned and updated. The next generation release will include tighter integration with the Consolidated Consular Database that will help ensure traceability of individuals to visa documents; and business processes are being reviewed and streamlined to speed the processing of requests for services. In FY 2013, TOMIS will continue integration with other critical government systems to provide the TOMIS user community with the most up-to-date and accurate data required to perform their duties.

Federal Income Tax Withholdings and Compliance

OFM continues to identify information sharing opportunities that support other government agencies. In FY 2013, OFM information will allow the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) 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. 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 and international organizations and their members in the United States. The system must adhere to OMB requirements for Service Component Based Architecture. Increased funding allows OFM to achieve the requirements defined in the Federal Enterprise Architecture and the Joint Enterprise Architecture.

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Motor Vehicle Compliance

The OFM's Motor Vehicle Office, pursuant to the Foreign Missions Act of 1982 and the 1978 Diplomatic Relations Act, ensures that foreign diplomats and missions carry federally mandated levels of liability insurance while also addressing issues associated with diplomats who commit motor vehicle infractions. OFM performs this critical function to protect public safety throughout the United States. Additionally, this office ensures that U.S. missions and diplomats abroad enjoy important and reciprocally balanced motor vehicle privileges and treatment.

In FY 2011, OFM implemented the nationwide launch of new Department of State driver's licenses and tax exemption cards that integrate state of the art security features, that are substantially compliant with the regulations for the REAL ID Act of 2005, and thereby meet critically important Department of Homeland Security equities that will be more easily verified by law enforcement, tax authorities, and vendors. As a recurring cost, in FY 2012 and FY 2013, OFM will issue 13,000 cards annually as new diplomats are assigned to the U.S. and validity dates expire.

Outreach

The OFM establishes and maintains professional liaison relationships with a variety of U.S. law enforcement and security entities nationwide, at the federal, state, and local levels. OFM seeks to expand its law enforcement outreach program in FY 2013 to educate these entities. This program includes OFM's role in emergency management preparedness and liaison with the foreign mission community and emergency responders in the United States. For example, OFM staff members provided assistance in Joplin, Missouri in response to the tornado disaster of May, 2011. coordinating with FEMA, state, and local authorities and served as a liaison for the foreign mission community. This assistance facilitated the U.S. Government's responsibilities under the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, as well as relieved other emergency responders of the additional challenge of working with foreign residents in their jurisdiction in the time of crisis. These outreach and training seminars are often carried out in conjunction with other representatives from the Diplomatic Security Bureau, the Bureau of Consular Affairs, and the Offices of the Chief of Protocol, and the Legal Advisor.

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

The OFM is represented in six regional office located in Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, and San Francisco. Regional Offices extend the Department of State's reach to local and state governmental partners as well as serve the growing consular and international community outside Washington metropolitan area. Local partnerships established by Regional Offices further foreign policy issues and provide access for local and state authorities to the foreign mission community. Recent regional OFM efforts have also uncovered over \$100,000 of taxes owed to state and local tax authorities by individuals fraudulently claiming to be active consular officers with tax-free benefits.

OFM regional offices routinely facilitate foreign investment and development of new international trading partners by successfully linking foreign investors and consulates to U.S. stake holders in host cities across the country. For example, OFM Houston proactively arranges briefings to foreign business and government delegations at the Port of Houston, a primary economy engine for Houston which generated more than \$211 billion in maritime trade and financial investments for the city during 2010, including joint business ventures in excess of \$1 billion each with 40 nations. In FY 2013, OFM anticipates being even more proactive in promoting increased international trade with the Ports of Houston and New Orleans, since the inauguration of the enhanced Panama Canal in 2014 will greatly stimulate increased maritime business within the entire Gulf of Mexico. Other key trading ports include Los Angeles and New York.

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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 that their members residing in the United States receive the same treatment that their respective governments provide to U.S. diplomats abroad. In coordination with the Transportation Security Administration, OFM manages the VIP airport screening program throughout the United States.

Custodial Properties

In accordance with the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic and Consular Relations, the OFM 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 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 of State 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 of State's diplomatic properties in Vietnam and, as a result, the U.S. was able to negotiate a favorable property settlement.

Justification of Request

The FY 2013 request for the Office of Foreign Missions is \$3.97 million, including current services increase of \$38,000 above the FY2012 estimate due to inflation and Cost of Living Allowances (COLA) for positions within the Working Capital Fund. This request also includes an efficiency savings of \$19,000 in contractor services and \$3,000 in travel for a total efficiency savings of \$22,000.

Resource Summary

	Positions					Funds (\$ in thousands)		
	American				Pos	Bureau	American	Funds
	CS	FS Dom	Overseas	FSN	Total	Managed	Salaries	Total
FY 2011 Actual	0	0	0	0	0	4,089	0	4,089
FY 2012 Estimate	0	0	0	0	0	3,937	0	3,937
FY 2013 Built-in Changes								
Administrative Savings	0	0	0	0	0	(22)	0	(22)
American COLA	0	0	0	0	0	33	0	33
Domestic Inflation	0	0	0	0	0	27	0	27
Total Built-in Changes	0	0	0	0	0	38	0	38
FY 2013 Current Services	0	0	0	0	0	3,975	0	3,975
FY 2013 Request	0	0	0	0	0	3,975	0	3,975

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Funds by Program Activity

(\$ in thousands)

Office of Foreign Missions	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Estimate	FY 2013 Request	Increase / Decrease
Conduct of Diplomatic Relations	2,683	2,522	2,589	67
Bureau Direction	2,683	2,522	2,589	67
Domestic Administrative Support	327	267	255	(12)
Bureau Direction	327	267	255	(12)
Information Resource Management	950	1,071	1,057	(14)
Office Automation	950	1,071	1,057	(14)
Policy Formulation	129	77	74	(3)
Political Affairs	129	77	74	(3)
Total	4,089	3,937	3,975	38

Program Activities

Department Of State	Positions			Funds (\$ in thousands)			
	American		FSN	Pos Total	Bureau Managed	American Salaries	Funds Total
	Domestic	Overseas					
Conduct of Diplomatic Relations	0	0	0	0	2,589	0	2,589
Bureau Direction	0	0	0	0	2,589	0	2,589
Domestic Administrative Support	0	0	0	0	255	0	255
Bureau Direction	0	0	0	0	255	0	255
Information Resource Management	0	0	0	0	1,057	0	1,057
Office Automation	0	0	0	0	1,057	0	1,057
Policy Formulation	0	0	0	0	74	0	74
Political Affairs	0	0	0	0	74	0	74
Total	0	0	0	0	3,975	0	3,975

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Funds by Domestic Organization Unit

(\$ in thousands)

Office of Foreign Missions	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Estimate	FY 2013 Request	Increase / Decrease
Chicago Field Office	275	225	218	(7)
Houston Field Office	238	241	223	(18)
Los Angeles Field Office	259	260	223	(37)
Miami Field Office	216	212	211	(1)
New York Field Office	340	342	328	(14)
Office of Information Management	900	1,139	1,122	(17)
Office of Property, Taxes, Services, and Benefits	338	387	444	57
Office of Vehicles, Tax, Customs	501	619	713	94
Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary	780	277	264	(13)
San Francisco Field Office	242	235	229	(6)
Total	4,089	3,937	3,975	38

Funds by Object Class

(\$ in thousands)

Office of Foreign Missions	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Estimate	FY 2013 Request	Increase / Decrease
1100 Personnel Compensation	1,755	1,828	1,865	37
1200 Personnel Benefits	632	658	671	13
2100 Travel & Trans of Persons	97	91	89	(2)
2500 Other Services	1,450	1,243	1,244	1
2600 Supplies and Materials	155	117	106	(11)
Total	4,089	3,937	3,975	38