

PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW AND ANALYSIS

Evaluations of Diplomatic, Management and Consular Programs

Below is a summary of evaluations of Diplomatic, Management and Consular Programs, which are funded through the State Operations Budget, completed in Fiscal Year 2010.

The Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI) Capability Assessment

In FY 2010, the evaluation team of the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI) implemented a capability assessment to determine the ability of GPOI partner countries to establish and strengthen their institutional infrastructure required to achieve and sustain peace support operations (PSO) self-sufficiency for military personnel. The evaluation team completed baseline assessments for all 58 GPOI partners using metrics for full operational capability (FOC) criteria which includes, but is not limited to: a dedicated trainer cadre; sufficient training facilities; and training programs of instruction, equipment and materials. Performance indicators for this assessment include increasing indigenous training capacity for GPOI partner countries as assessed annually, and determining the number of GPOI partners certified as meeting FOC criteria (target objective is to reach FOC in PSO training in 37 partner countries by the end of FY 2014).

U.S. Speaker and Specialists Program Evaluation

The Bureau of International Information Programs (IIP) U.S. Speaker and Specialist Program has promoted and facilitated dialogue between American experts and overseas audiences for more than 26 years. The objectives of the program are to advance national interests and enhance security by informing and influencing foreign publics, as well as to strengthen the relationship between the USG and citizens around the world. An evaluation to determine the efficacy and impact of the program was conducted from October 2009 through September 2010. Using a mixed methodology consisting of in-depth interviews, focus groups and online surveys, the study identified several opportunities to enhance the program's effectiveness. The evaluation maintains that, by adopting the following recommendations, the U.S. Speaker and Specialists Program will achieve the greatest return on its investment: a) conducting working sessions with Post staff to inform the development of compelling rhetoric to capture foreign audience interests; b) changing IIP's role from protocol-driven administrator to corporative partner with Posts, and c) making audiences the genesis of all programming decisions by taking into consideration the political, economic and cultural environments in which Posts are operating.

The Annual Consular Affairs Overseas Consular Staffing Assessment

The annual assessment is used to evaluate overseas consular staffing to determine personnel surpluses and deficiencies. The Executive Office of the Bureau of Consular Affairs (CA/EX) assesses overall staffing needs at all posts worldwide through a series of equations including staffing and workload data from the annual Consular Package; the difficulty factor of doing business at each post; and local, regional, and worldwide trends from previous consular data. CA/EX uses the assessment throughout the year to respond to personnel requests from posts, most importantly for the annual repositioning exercise in February, and for resource planning purposes. Over the past three fiscal years, CA/EX has abolished 50 positions at overstaffed posts and reestablished those 50 positions at understaffed posts (repositioning). In addition to the 50 repositioned positions, CA/EX has established 71 new fee-funded positions.