

OFFICE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

Resource Summary

(\$ in thousands)

Appropriations	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 CR ⁽¹⁾	FY 2014 Request	Increase/Decrease From FY2012
Positions - Enduring	0	0	0	0
Enduring Funds	8,168	8,173	8,218	50

(1) The FY 2013 CR is based on the annualized continuing resolution calculation for FY 2013 (P.L. 112-175).

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 UN 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) and the United States Mission to the UN, which enables those offices to collectively 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 construction tax-relief arrangements which have thus far resulted in savings of over \$200 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. In FY 2014 OFM will continue to negotiate construction tax relief arrangements to cover the overseas construction projects scheduled for award.

OFFICE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

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, international organizations and other entities established throughout the United States and its territories. TOMIS supports the entire spectrum of OFM and 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 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 mission community. 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. Additional functionality is being incorporated to support the evolving demands for the unique data maintained by TOMIS and as well changes to the requirements of the various programs supported by TOMIS. The next generation releases will continue to realize an overall TOMIS development goal of integrating data from the Bureau of Consular Affairs' (CA) Consolidated Consular Database into the various program modules supported by TOMIS. This collaboration helps ensure traceability of individuals to visa documents and streamlines the efficiency and accountability of OFM's adjudication of requests from foreign missions and their members for privileges and immunities. In FY 2014, 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 and will further enhance and improve its current efforts to appropriately share the unique data maintained in TOMIS with CA, including Passport Services, and other federal agencies.

Federal Income Tax Withholdings and Compliance

OFM continues to identify information sharing opportunities that support other government agencies. In FY 2014, 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 U.S. 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 the Office of Management and Budget (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.

OFFICE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

Motor Vehicle Compliance

OFM's Motor Vehicle Office, pursuant to the Foreign Missions Act of 1982 and the 1978 Diplomatic Relations Act, ensures that certain foreign mission members 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. OFM continues to produce driver's licenses (and tax-exemption cards) that integrate state of the art security features, which 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.

Outreach

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 2014 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. In 2012, OFM also assisted various missions with power outages, flooding, and other issues related to Hurricane Sandy. 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.

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

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 a case where an honorary consul was inappropriately granted a real estate tax exemption by the county in which he resided. This resulted in the county being able to recoup over \$100,000 of taxes. 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 was even more proactive in promoting increased international trade with the Ports of Houston and New Orleans, since the inauguration of the enhanced Panama Canal and will continue to greatly stimulate increased maritime business within the entire Gulf of Mexico. Other key trading ports include Los Angeles and New York.

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.

OFFICE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

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 2014 Request for OFM is \$8.2 million, which is an increase of \$45,000 over the FY 2012 Actual level. The increase is driven entirely by current service adjustments. This Request also reflects a regularization of \$4.2 million in base level operational funding for security programs which were previously funded by reimbursements from other agencies.

Resource Summary

	Positions					Funds (\$ in thousands)		
	American				Pos	Bureau	American	Funds
	CS	FS Dom	Overseas	FSN	Total	Managed	Salaries	Total
FY 2012 Actual	0	0	0	0	0	8,168	0	8,168
FY 2013 Estimate	0	0	0	0	0	8,173	0	8,173
FY 2014 Built-in Changes								
American COLA	0	0	0	0	0	32	0	32
Domestic Inflation	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	13
Total Built-in Changes	0	0	0	0	0	45	0	45
FY 2014 Current Services	0	0	0	0	0	8,218	0	8,218
FY 2014 Request	0	0	0	0	0	8,218	0	8,218

OFFICE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

Staff and Funds by Domestic Organization Units

(\$ in thousands)

Office of Foreign Missions (OFM)	FY 2012 Actual			FY 2013 CR			FY 2014 Request			Increase/Decrease From FY2012		
	Am	FSN	Funds	Am	FSN	Funds	Am	FSN	Funds	Am	FSN	Funds
Chicago Field Office	0	0	420	0	0	423	0	0	425	0	0	5
Houston Field Office	0	0	420	0	0	419	0	0	421	0	0	1
Los Angeles Field Office	0	0	436	0	0	457	0	0	460	0	0	24
Miami Field Office	0	0	415	0	0	420	0	0	422	0	0	7
New York Field Office	0	0	610	0	0	606	0	0	609	0	0	(1)
Office of Information Management	0	0	2,614	0	0	2,596	0	0	2,611	0	0	(3)
Office of Property, Taxes, Services, and Benefits	0	0	1,215	0	0	1,208	0	0	1,215	0	0	0
Office of Vehicles, Tax, Customs	0	0	1,158	0	0	1,154	0	0	1,160	0	0	2
Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary	0	0	535	0	0	539	0	0	542	0	0	7
San Francisco Field Office	0	0	345	0	0	351	0	0	353	0	0	8
Total	0	0	8,168	0	0	8,173	0	0	8,218	0	0	50

Funds by Object Class

(\$ in thousands)

Office of Foreign Missions (OFM)	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 CR	FY 2014 Request	Increase/Decrease From FY2012
1100 Personnel Compensation	3,832	3,834	3,855	23
1200 Personnel Benefits	1,379	1,380	1,388	9
2100 Travel & Trans of Persons	183	183	184	1
2500 Other Services	2,556	2,558	2,572	16
2600 Supplies and Materials	218	218	219	1
Total	8,168	8,173	8,218	50

This page intentionally left blank