

## Review of the Creekbed Renovation Project

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Office of Audits

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*(This is an unclassified summary of a classified report)*

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) conducted a review regarding the Department of State's (the Department) project to renovate facilities at the Creekbed site in Frankfurt, Germany, where the consulate general and regional support center will be located. The Department has taken important steps to address current and future Creekbed project requirements since the facilities were acquired in 2002. A particularly notable initiative is the establishment of a working group that is providing an ongoing review of the project's plans and addressing funding issues that arise. The working group operates under the leadership of the Under Secretary for Management and its membership includes the Bureaus of Administration, Diplomatic Security (DS), European and Eurasian Affairs, Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO), and Resource Management and other organizations representing tenants' interests in the renovated facilities.

The Creekbed facility was designed and constructed to 1937 standards, with the exception of Wing N, which was built in the 1970s to current standards at that time, to function as a German air force hospital. Planning and construction of U.S. diplomatic facilities overseas is subject to requirements of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 1988 and 1989. That Act requires the Department, in consultation with the Director of Central Intelligence, to certify that appropriate and adequate steps have been taken to ensure the security of the construction projects. By policy, the Department applies Overseas Security Policy Board (OSPB) security standards to renovations of newly acquired buildings, to ensure the resulting facilities provide protection for classified information, personnel, and national security-related activities. Defined procedures must be followed if compliance with an OSPB security standard cannot be achieved in the renovation of a newly acquired building. Waiver and exception procedures differ, depending on the standard involved.

As a result of its work, OIG recommended that DS, in coordination with OBO, immediately identify all OSPB standard deficiencies pertaining to the Creekbed project and either incorporate corrections into project renovation plans or seek approval for exceptions to the security standards for these deficiencies. OIG also recommended that OBO seek the funding needed to ensure the floor-loading requirements of Creekbed's post communication center are addressed before the facilities are occupied.

**Office of Inspector General**

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