What OIG Reviewed
In 2009, Congress passed the Afghan Allies Protection Act, which established a special immigrant visa (SIV) program to resettle Afghans who were or are employed in Afghanistan by the U.S. Government or by the International Security Assistance Force and experienced an ongoing and serious threat as a result of their employment. Congress amended the Act in 2013 to improve the efficiency of the visa issuance process. From FY 2009 to FY 2019, 18,471 special immigrant visas were issued, and as of September 2019, 18,864 applicants remained in the process. The FY 2020 National Defense Authorization Act directed the Department of State (Department), Office of Inspector General (OIG), to evaluate and offer improvements to eight identified obstacles that could affect the effective protection of Afghan allies through the SIV program and provide suggestions for improvements in future programs.

What OIG Recommends
OIG made six recommendations in this report intended to improve the SIV program. On the basis of the Under Secretary for Management’s response to a draft of this report, OIG considers one recommendation closed and five recommendations resolved, pending further action. A synopsis of management’s comments and OIG’s reply follow each recommendation in the Results section of this report. The Under Secretary for Management’s response to a draft of this report is reprinted in its entirety in Appendix B. OIG previously issued a Management Assistance Report related to this topic that offered three recommendations to improve the process by which the Department reports the Afghan SIV applicant wait times.