



Summary of Investigation

Investigation Into Allegations of Misuse of Position by an ITA Foreign Commercial Officer

Case No. 25-0770

September 28, 2026

► **What We Investigated** | In April 2025, we received a complaint detailing allegations against a foreign commercial officer in the International Trade Administration's (ITA's) Foreign Commercial Service. The complaint alleged that the officer improperly assisted foreign nationals seeking U.S. visas in exchange for personal benefits. The complaint further alleged that the officer harassed foreign nationals and threatened to use his position with ITA to influence their visa applications or employment.

► **What We Found** | We found that the officer, stationed at a U.S. Embassy abroad, misused his official authority during personal interactions with foreign nationals. The officer made threatening comments to them by suggesting control over future visa decisions and employment opportunities as retaliation for perceived personal insults.

Additionally, we found that the officer failed to report personal relationships with foreign nationals, as required under federal security policy. He also misused his government-issued cellphone to translate inappropriate sexual language in violation of Department policy concerning the use of government property. We further determined that the officer lacked candor during the OIG interview by downplaying the extent and nature of his relationships with foreign nationals. However, we found no evidence that the officer assisted foreign nationals in obtaining U.S. visas for personal benefit or improperly interfered with visa applications in a retaliatory manner.

We referred this matter to ITA for action.