

January 15, 2016

The Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

To whom it may concern:

Effective January 15, 2016, the Department transferred the management of the Airport Escort Screening Courtesies program from the Office of Foreign Missions (OFM) to the Office of the Chief of Protocol (S/CPR). The reason for this change is to avoid confusion among the foreign mission community. The Airport Escort Screening Courtesies program, which processes and clears high-ranking foreign government officials when *departing* the U.S., is similar to the Port Courtesies program, which allows high-ranking foreign government officials expedited processing and clearance upon *arrival* into the U.S. Going forward, the Office of Chief of Protocol will manage both the Airport Escort Screening Courtesies and the Port Courtesies program. This will simplify the procedures for the foreign missions and maximize efficiencies, giving them one office within the Department of State to handle arrival and departure processes for high-ranking foreign government officials.

Despite the change, the information collected from the AESC form will reside within OFM's TOMIS database.

For any questions about the transfer of the Airport Escort Screening Courtesies program, please contact Grace H. Choi in OFM at (202) 736-7177 or Rosemarie Pauli at the Office of Chief of Protocol at 202-647-1700.

Sincerely,

Cliff Seagroves
Deputy Director, Acting
Diplomatic Property, Taxes,
Services and Benefits