

**Statement of  
Ambassador William Moser**

**Principal Deputy Director of the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations  
U.S. Department of State**

**Before the  
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
September 9, 2015**

Good morning, Chairman Chaffetz, Ranking Member Cummings, and Members of the Committee. Thank you for the invitation to appear before the Committee today to discuss the U.S Consulates in northern Mexico.

Security is a top priority for the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO). Since the enactment of the Secure Embassy Construction and Counterterrorism Act (SECCA) of 1999, OBO has completed 122 secure facilities and has an additional 46 in design or under construction. These completed facilities provide more than 35,000 people with a safer workplace.

Constructing secure, diplomatic facilities in Mexico underscores our commitment to strengthening our bilateral relationship and reflects increased U.S.-Mexican commitments to issues such as migration, counter-narcotics, trade, and border security, as well as providing a full range of consular services.

Over the last 7 years, OBO has constructed new Consulate General facilities in Mexico in Ciudad Juarez, Tijuana, and most recently in Monterrey. Together, these facilities provide safer work space for over 770 staff.

Our work continues in northern Mexico with a new U.S. Consulate General in Nuevo Laredo under construction and expected to be completed in 2017. This new Consulate will provide workspace for approximately 150 staff.

Another U.S. Consulate General in Matamoros is in design and expected to be awarded for construction this fall and completed in 2019. This new Consulate General is planned to accommodate approximately 200 staff.

We have an active and aggressive site search underway in Mexico to meet our commitments. We are under contract for new Consulate General sites in Nogales, Guadalajara, and Hermosillo and anticipate closing on these sites in calendar year

2015. We are also in the process of evaluating sites in Merida to replace the existing facilities.

Additionally, a new U.S. Embassy in Mexico City is currently in design and includes office space for over 1,300 staff, a U.S. Marine Residence, and a consular area with over 75 consular windows.

OBO works closely with the Bureau of Diplomatic Security every step of the way on all of our projects. OBO and DS physical, technical, and industrial security specialists are involved in project development from early site selection, planning, design, construction, and through occupancy. All U.S. diplomatic facilities built by OBO meet the Department's standards for security and life safety.

By 2020 we expect to have constructed or broken ground on over nine new diplomatic facilities in Mexico that will serve as secure platforms from which to conduct diplomacy and to fulfill foreign policy objectives for many years to come.

I am happy to answer your questions.