

**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.



Ambassador William H. Moser

William H. Moser began as Principal Deputy Director in the Overseas Buildings Operations bureau of the U.S. Department of State on March 3, 2015. Ambassador Moser has had a distinguished career as a member of the U.S. Foreign Service.

From September 2011 until January 2015 he was the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova.

Ambassador Moser served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Logistics Management at the U.S. Department of State from July 2006 to September 2011. In Washington, DC, he was also previously the Director of Global Support Services and Innovation, the Deputy Executive Director for European and Eurasian Affairs, and a Post Management Officer in the Bureau of Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs.

Ambassador Moser's overseas assignments have included tours as the Management Counselor at U.S. Embassy Kiev; Energy Attaché/Economic Officer and Management Officer at U.S. Embassy Almaty; and Administrative Officer at U.S. Embassy Paramaribo. He also served as the Financial Management Officer at U.S. Embassy Cairo and a Consular Officer/Staff Assistant at U.S. Embassy Bonn. Ambassador Moser began his diplomatic career as the General Services Officer at U.S. Embassy Bamako in Mali. He is fluent in German, French, and Russian.

A dedicated public servant, Ambassador Moser has won numerous commendations throughout his career for his contributions to international affairs, management, and public policy. In July 2011, Ambassador Moser was awarded the Secretary of Defense's Medal for Distinguished Civilian Service. In 2003, he won the Leamon R. Hunt Award for Administrative Excellence.

Born and raised in North Carolina, Ambassador Moser received a B.A. in Political Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is married and has three children.