



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
**BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY**

**DIPLOMATIC SECURITY**



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***A GLOBAL FORCE***

# A GLOBAL FORCE

The Bureau of Diplomatic Security is the security and law enforcement arm of the U.S. Department of State dedicated to providing a safe and secure environment for the conduct of U.S. foreign policy.

A cadre of devoted special agents, engineers, couriers, security specialists, and other professionals form a global force that develops and manages comprehensive worldwide security programs for every U.S. embassy and consulate overseas.

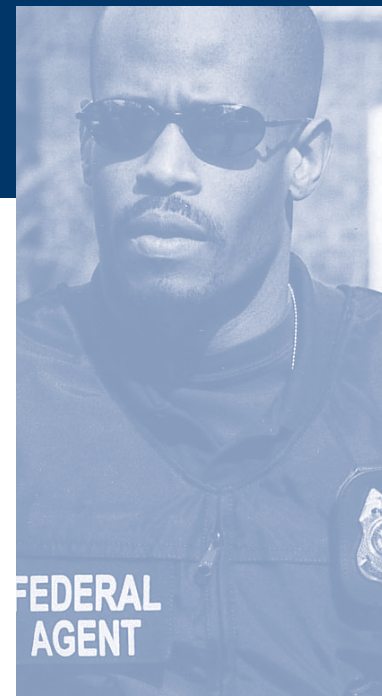
Diplomatic Security has a wide range of responsibilities that include investigating passport and visa fraud, conducting background investigations and issuing security clearances, protecting the Secretary of State and high ranking foreign dignitaries who visit the United States, and training foreign civilian security and law enforcement officers in the latest antiterrorism techniques.

The men and women of Diplomatic Security meet the challenges of today by working with other federal agencies, intelligence and law enforcement communities, foreign police and security services, and the private sector to support the global mission of the U.S. Department of State.

## OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT ROLE

Diplomatic Security is the most widely represented American law enforcement and security organization outside of the United States. A worldwide network of more than 1,400 special agents are assigned to field offices and various Joint Terrorism Task Forces throughout the United States and to more than 250 diplomatic posts in 180 countries. Special agents are carefully selected and highly skilled. Requirements for employment are stringent; less than three percent of those who apply are selected. Candidates undergo 5 months of intense academic and physical training before beginning their careers in Diplomatic Security. The variety of assignments and the international scope of our mission keep agents focused and their skills honed. In a very short time, our agents become the most able and versatile in federal law enforcement.

The backbone of any professional security organization is its ability to conduct thorough, professional investigations. Special agents investigate passport and visa fraud, counter-intelligence, and related criminal acts including terrorism, organized crime, and narcotics trafficking. These investigations are critical to America's homeland



security efforts. Our agents also investigate threats made against foreign missions in the United States, State Department personnel, U.S. Government employees abroad, and the dignitaries we protect.

Our mission includes the protection of the Secretary of State, other senior Department officials, and foreign missions in the United States. Special agents also protect visiting foreign dignitaries and prominent visitors such as members of royal families, former heads of state, and other visitors such as the Dalai Lama.

Through our unique overseas presence, we have built relationships and fostered cooperation with law enforcement agencies throughout the world to combat those who endanger our national security.

## PROTECTING PEOPLE

Protecting life is the most critical element of our mission and is essential for the global conduct of foreign affairs.

In addition to our protection responsibilities in the United States, we protect ambassadors and other dignitaries overseas. We augment the protection we provide our embassy employees and their families with training and security awareness programs designed for each diplomatic post.

When special security needs arise, our agents are ready. Diplomatic Security agents are protecting President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan during the tumultuous period of that country's regrowth. Dozens of agents assigned to Baghdad have supported the Coalition Provisional Authority and are working to safely reopen our embassy in Iraq.

## PROTECTING FACILITIES

Diplomatic Security is dedicated to providing a secure living and working environment for its Foreign Service colleagues as they implement foreign policy and promote U.S. interests around the world. We are responsible for protecting all State Department facilities in the United States and our embassies and consulates overseas.

U.S. embassies and consulates—including those currently under construction—are made secure by combining the latest physical security countermeasures and technology with an alert guard force. Local guards protect the perimeters of our overseas missions, office facilities, residences, and construction sites. Diplomatic Security manages more than 15,600 local guards who are usually nationals of the host country.

Marine Security Guards control access to the interior of our embassies by



monitoring surveillance devices, fire alarms, and communications systems that cover the entire embassy. In times of crisis, MSGs aid in safeguarding the lives of diplomatic personnel and assist in evacuating embassy employees and other Americans living in the country.

To reduce the risk of intrusion and terrorist attack, security engineering officers, assisted by security technicians and Navy Seabees, research, design, and install sophisticated, state-of-the-art alarm systems, explosives detection devices, and architectural barriers, as well as windows and doors resistant to blast and forced entry.

## PROTECTING OUR NATION'S SECRETS

Technology pervades every aspect of life today, and its rapid evolution continues to create challenges to protecting classified and sensitive information. Diplomatic Security engineers and security specialists monitor and thwart the electronic threat faced by our embassies.

Security assessments of the Department's worldwide, automated information and telecommunications systems protect the Department's sensitive information.

Inspections and analyses prevent and detect any compromise of technical systems and classified information. Diplomatic Security develops and tests security countermeasures that are then built into all computer systems used by the Department of State.

Our diplomatic couriers protect information by ensuring the secure movement of classified material across international borders to U.S. embassies and consulates. Diplomatic pouches may contain thousands of pounds of equipment and construction materials, as well as classified documents bound for sensitive posts. Diplomatic couriers securely deliver more than 10 million pounds of classified and sensitive material each year.

By delineating policies and procedures for handling, storing, and destroying sensitive information, we educate





## BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY FIELD OFFICES

Department employees on the proper handling of classified materials. We are also responsible for protecting classified information entrusted to firms and individuals under contract to the State Department.

Diplomatic Security investigates information security violations in the State Department and works with other U.S. Government investigators and counterintelligence agencies to conduct damage assessments when classified materials are compromised.

### BEHIND THE SCENES

Terrorism against Americans and American interests throughout the world has risen to unprecedented levels. Terrorists strike not only in areas of unrest and conflict, but with increasing frequency at soft targets—locations with no apparent political or ideological significance that, therefore, may have less protection. To reduce the losses the U.S. faces from the terrorist threat, Diplomatic Security continually gathers and analyzes information on terrorist incidents and activities to determine potential threats to our people and facilities.

While terrorism is a primary concern, hostile intelligence groups still attempt

to recruit and manipulate employees into committing acts of espionage. We meet these efforts with a variety of countermeasures. Our intelligence experts educate employees on hostile intelligence methods and personal vulnerabilities that might be exploited. Diplomatic Security investigates alleged espionage incidents and conducts damage assessments on confirmed acts of espionage in the State Department.

### DIPLOMATIC SECURITY AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

The Overseas Security Advisory Council was created by the Secretary of State to promote an open dialogue between the U.S. Government and the American private sector on security issues abroad. Originally growing out of the need to address unrest, terrorism, and other violent activities, the partnership has expanded to include the protection of information and technology.

With a constituency of 2,300 U.S. companies and other organizations with overseas interests, OSAC operates an Internet web site, [www.ds-osac.org](http://www.ds-osac.org), as one of its principal means of information exchange with the private sector.

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Visit the Diplomatic Security website at [www.state.gov/m/ds](http://www.state.gov/m/ds)