

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY

DIPLOMATIC SECURITY

REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICE





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DIPLOMATIC SECURITY: REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICE



Introduction

The Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS) is the security and law enforcement arm of the U.S. Department of State. It dates back to 1916 with the appointment of a single Chief Special Agent who reported directly to the U.S. Secretary of State on special matters. Over the years, Diplomatic Security's authority has expanded and now includes criminal investigations of passport and visa fraud; protection of heads of state and official representatives of foreign governments while in the United States; securing information systems; and safeguarding U.S. embassies throughout the world.

Today Diplomatic Security is a global force of 35,000 professionals dedicated to ensuring that the United States can conduct foreign policy safely and securely. Operating from a worldwide platform in 189 countries, Diplomatic Security is a world leader in international investigations, threat analysis, cyber security, dignitary protection, security technology, counterterrorism, and more.



Law Enforcement and Security Services

Diplomatic Security is represented throughout the world by a Regional Security Office (RSO) in every U.S. embassy and in some U.S. consulates.

The RSO provides a range of services to U.S. citizens, the U.S. private sector, and foreign law enforcement organizations. Each office is managed by a Diplomatic Security Regional Security Officer, who serves as the U.S. Ambassador's senior U.S. law enforcement and security advisor.

The Regional Security Office:

- ⦿ Protects the U.S. embassy or consulate, its personnel, and information.
- ⦿ Serves as the U.S. embassy's law enforcement liaison to the host nation.
- ⦿ Arranges training for foreign police and security officers to combat terrorism.
- ⦿ Advises Americans about safety and security abroad and assists U.S.-related schools and organizations in obtaining security grants.
- ⦿ Shares security information with the U.S. private sector through the Overseas Security Advisory Council.

U.S. Embassy, Personnel, and Information Protection

American embassies and consulates overseas are a frequent target of terrorists and other criminals. To mitigate threats, the RSO develops, implements, and manages a range of physical, cyber, and personnel security programs.

Marine Security Guards

The RSO directs U.S. Marine Security Guards who secure the interior of most U.S. embassies. Marine Security Guards ensure the security of information and personnel within the U.S. missions. During some crises, they help evacuate Americans living in the region.

Local Guards

RSOs also manage a worldwide force of 33,000 local guards that protects the perimeters of U.S. diplomatic facilities. Local guards, usually citizens of the host nation, patrol the grounds and inspect vehicles, visitors, and packages. They also respond to alarms and requests for assistance.

Law Enforcement Liaison

As the U.S. Department of State's primary point of contact with law enforcement and security agencies of the host nation, the RSO works with foreign police and security organizations to coordinate U.S. law enforcement initiatives, investigations and, in some cases, training.

RSOs are staffed by expert investigators — including citizens of the host nation known as Foreign Service National Investigators — who maintain strong relationships with foreign and international law enforcement organizations and assist on fugitive apprehensions, terrorism, and transnational crime cases.

Visa and Passport Fraud

Travel document fraud represents a serious and growing threat to the security of all nations. Criminals who obtain a fraudulent travel document often use it to commit crimes such as terrorism, financial fraud, narcotics trafficking, alien smuggling, and identity theft. Fugitives often seek to change their identities and travel internationally as part of their criminal activities.

Our Regional Security Offices conduct international document fraud investigations. Working with foreign law enforcement agencies, RSOs investigate and coordinate hundreds of international visa and passport fraud cases each year. Cases include allegations of corruption by American and locally employed staff of U.S. embassies, fraudulent document vendors, bribery, alien smuggling, and trafficking of U.S. visas.

Transnational Crimes

The Regional Security Office works with its law enforcement counterparts abroad to pursue investigative leads on U.S. fugitives wanted for crimes such as homicide, pedophilia, narcotics trafficking, parental kidnapping, financial and Internet fraud, and other crimes.



In Seoul, South Korea, a Regional Security Officer (right) coordinates with local SWAT team personnel.



In Pakistan, Regional Security Officers were on hand for an Antiterrorism Assistance training graduation ceremony.

The close working relationships between our RSOs and their foreign counterparts, combined with the expertise of our 350 locally hired investigators, has resulted in locating U.S. fugitives all over the world. These fugitives are often found to have continued their criminal activities in their newly adopted countries.

In 2003, the U.S. Congress passed the PROTECT Act making it a crime for U.S. citizens to sexually exploit or abuse children in a foreign country. As a result, demand for the RSOs' investigative assistance overseas has increased as U.S. law enforcement seeks to apprehend U.S. pedophiles who prey on children around the globe.



Antiterrorism Assistance

Diplomatic Security's Antiterrorism Assistance (ATA) program builds the counterterrorist capacity of America's partner nations by enhancing the skills and abilities of their civilian law enforcement personnel. Since its inception, this program has trained and assisted more than 67,000 foreign security and law enforcement personnel from 154 countries.

Participants in the ATA program have used their new skills to deter and prevent terrorist attacks, rescue American hostages, dismantle terrorist cells, and apprehend terrorist operatives and leaders.



Regional Security Officers provide support to U.S. athletes, officials, sponsors, and citizens during major international events. Here two RSOs review security arrangements for American VIPs at the Wukesong baseball venue during the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

Antiterrorism Assistance programs are tailored to meet the needs of the host country. We develop courses and provide training on topics such as:

- ⦿ Bomb detection and disposal
- ⦿ Crime scene investigation
- ⦿ Hostage negotiation
- ⦿ Airport and building security
- ⦿ Maritime protections
- ⦿ VIP protection
- ⦿ Cyber security
- ⦿ Senior crisis management
- ⦿ Soft-target security
- ⦿ Fraudulent document detection
- ⦿ Post-blast investigations
- ⦿ Canine programs
- ⦿ Crisis response teams
- ⦿ Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) teams

International Law Enforcement Academy

Each year hundreds of police officers from member countries are invited to participate in training at the International Law Enforcement Academies in Bangkok, Budapest, Gaborone, and San Salvador.

These programs offer to non-U.S. mid-level civilian police officers courses on management skills and a variety of other specialized classes. Core programs are conducted by Diplomatic Security and other U.S. federal law enforcement agencies.

Major International Events

Diplomatic Security is the lead U.S. law enforcement organization working with foreign law enforcement and security agencies to protect American citizens and U.S. interests at major public events overseas, such as international trade expos and sports competitions.

For example, Diplomatic Security personnel have worked with their foreign counterparts to coordinate protection at the 2006 FIFA World Cup, the 2007 Pan American Games, the 2007 Cricket World Cup, and all overseas Olympic Games since 1984.

Rewards for Justice Program

Diplomatic Security administers the Rewards for Justice program, a key weapon in the U.S. war on terror. Through this program, the U.S. Secretary of State may offer substantial rewards for information that leads to the arrest or conviction of anyone who plans, commits, or attempts international terrorist acts against U.S. persons or property; that prevents such acts from occurring in the first place; that leads to the location of a key terrorist leader; or that disrupts terrorism financing.

Since the program began in 1984, the United States has paid more than \$82 million to more than 50 persons who provided information that put terrorists behind bars or prevented terrorist acts against Americans around the world.

Some of the Rewards for Justice program's notable success stories include locating international terrorist Ramzi Yousef, convicted for the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center, and Saddam Hussein's sons, Uday and Qusay Hussein. All were located with information provided by RFJ sources. The identities of RFJ sources and the information they provide are kept strictly confidential.

Rewards for Justice campaigns are internationally advertised with posters; matchbook covers; newspaper, radio, and television ads; and on the Internet at www.rewardsforjustice.net.

People wishing to provide information to the Rewards for Justice program should contact the Regional Security Office at the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate, or use the following contact information:

Mailing address:

RFJ, Washington D.C. 20522-0303, USA

Toll-free telephone number:

1-800-US-REWARDS

E-mail:

RFJ@state.gov

Justice



Khadaffy Janjalani
(aka Amir, Dafis)
Up To
P250,000,000



Up To
P250,000,000



location



In Manila, a Regional Security Officer reveals suitcases of reward money for two informants who provided information that led to the capture of a leader of a terrorist organization.



A Regional Security Officer, left, assists American citizens during the 2006 evacuation of Beirut.

Safety For Americans Abroad

Working closely with the embassy's Consular Affairs office, the RSO is a resource for U.S. citizens living, working, and traveling overseas. RSOs provide the latest information on safety and security conditions specific to their country of residence, as well as recommendations on how to protect against crime, civil unrest, terrorism or other threatening situations. RSO personnel may also be called upon to provide assistance to U.S. citizens before, during, or after emergencies overseas.



Emergency Response

To improve the delivery of assistance and information to U.S. citizens during or following terrorist attacks, natural disasters, civil disorder, and other emergencies, the Department of State encourages all Americans abroad to register with the closest U.S. consulate.

When the embassy is aware of an impending emergency, the RSO assists in producing “warden messages” and other advisories or warnings that are disseminated to registered American citizens via e-mail, fax, or telephone by American Citizen Services (ACS) within the embassy.

If an emergency requires the evacuation of Americans, the RSO assists in disseminating information on evacuation times and locations. RSO personnel may also coordinate with host nation law enforcement and security agencies to ensure safe passage of Americans to evacuation points, and to provide and coordinate security at the points of departure.



A Regional Security Officer briefs the U.S. Embassy WMD First Responder Team during a training exercise in Kigali, Rwanda.

The Consular Affairs office uses its notification system to invite registered U.S. citizens to U.S. embassy town hall meetings at which mission personnel — including RSO staff — provide country-specific security briefings.

Americans abroad may be targeted by criminals. When an American abroad becomes a victim of crime, the RSO can help the victim file criminal complaints, obtain police reports, and deal with the host country judicial system.

Schools and Recreational Organizations

As Diplomatic Security and other U.S. agencies have improved security at U.S. facilities overseas in recent years, terrorists have begun to pursue less protected targets in which the United States has an interest. These “soft targets” include overseas schools and recreation associations at which U.S. citizens or their children study or socialize.

To reduce the threat of terrorist attack against these educational institutions and recreational organizations, the U.S. Department of State awards “soft target” grants for the purchase and installation of security upgrades at these facilities.

Although these facilities are not under the authority or the responsibility of the U.S. embassy, the Regional Security Officer often serves as an informal advisor on security matters.

The RSO conducts security surveys, identifies security vulnerabilities, and makes security recommendations that the school or recreation center includes as part of its proposal for U.S. Government grant funds.

A Regional Security Officer, left, confers with officials of the Kenyan Wildlife Service in Nairobi National Park. For many years RSOs in Nairobi have had a strong partnership with the Wildlife Service.



Overseas Security Advisory Council

The Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) is a public-private partnership that promotes security through cooperation and information-sharing between the U.S. Department of State and U.S. companies, educational institutions, religious groups, and nonprofit organizations overseas.

OSAC has more than 120 country councils in the Middle East, Africa, Europe, Asia, and the Western Hemisphere. These country councils provide a forum for effective communication between the U.S. embassy and the American private sector in a given country.

They also provide participants with timely unclassified safety and security information, educational seminars, and, in some cases, training exercises to confront today's security threats.

For more information about the Regional Security Office at the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate, contact:


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WITH CONTACT INFO FOR LOCAL RSO

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