

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY

A GLOBAL FORCE

Investigations



Diplomatic Security is the law enforcement arm of the U.S. Department of State.

We are:

- ▶ Dedicated to upholding the integrity of the U.S. passport and visa—the two most valuable travel documents in the world
- ▶ Assigned to embassies and consulates overseas as the primary U.S. law enforcement officers in most foreign nations
- ▶ Experienced in helping domestic law enforcement agencies conduct global investigations through our relationships with foreign police
- ▶ The most widely represented U.S. security and law enforcement agency worldwide—with 1,400 special agents serving in the United States and overseas at U.S. diplomatic missions

Diplomatic Security works as a global force in the continuous fight for our nation’s security. More than ever, transnational crime and terrorism pose a severe threat to America’s interests. Through our unique domestic and overseas presence, Diplomatic Security fosters cooperation with international police and collaborates with American law enforcement agencies to combat those who endanger our national security.

Passport Fraud

Travel document fraud represents a serious and growing threat to our national security. Criminals who obtain a fraudulent passport often use it to commit other crimes, including terrorism, financial fraud, narcotics trafficking and identity theft. Passport fraud—the fraudulent use, possession, manufacture or application for a passport of any nation—is a federal felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison. Longer sentences are handed out for fraud related to narcotics and acts of international terrorism. Diplomatic Security arrests approximately 500 individuals each year for passport fraud.



IN ACTION Colorado

An American applied for four U.S. passports over a 5-year period, each time fraudulently assuming the identity of a business associate. Through its investigation, Diplomatic Security determined that the individual committing passport fraud also was the subject of a California homicide investigation. A Diplomatic Security regional security officer in the Philippines located the suspect, assisted local police with his arrest and arranged for his deportation. While the suspect was incarcerated, California prosecutors continued their investigation and built a strong case against him. He is now accused of murdering his wife.

Visa Fraud

A U.S. visa is a document granting a non-U.S. traveler *permission to apply* for admission to the United States. It is NOT a guarantee of entry. Visa fraud is the fraudulent use, manufacture, or sale of a visa. Diplomatic Security has investigated thousands of individuals who have entered the United States on fraudulent visas obtained by criminal organizations or through bribery. These illegal visa recipients pose a serious threat to our national security. Visa fraud is a federal felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison, with longer sentences when the fraud is related to narcotics or acts of international terrorism.



IN ACTION Doha

In Operation Eagle Strike, Diplomatic Security agents investigated the illegal issuance of U.S. visas to more than 70 unqualified recipients at the U.S. Embassy in Doha, Qatar. Possible terrorist connections of some of the known visa recipients prompted a nationwide manhunt by Diplomatic Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, and the FBI, resulting in the arrest of 49 individuals in the United States and overseas. It was determined that the remaining recipients never entered the United States.

Global Investigations

Diplomatic Security plays a leading role in assisting other local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies with thousands of investigations overseas each year. Our regional security officers work with host country police to pursue investigative leads on a variety of subjects, including:

- ▶ U.S. fugitives
- ▶ Money laundering
- ▶ Narcotics trafficking
- ▶ International abduction of children by parents

WORKING WITH OTHERS Belize

The U.S. Marshals Service contacted Diplomatic Security at the U.S. Embassy in Belize to assist with the location and apprehension of a U.S. Marshals’ Top 15 Most Wanted Fugitive. The subject was wanted on drug charges, multiple counts of sexual assaults against minors, and for questioning in at least one homicide. Diplomatic Security helped to secure a provisional arrest warrant, conducted surveillance, and devised an arrest plan. After local police arrested the subject, Diplomatic Security worked with Belize officials to extradite him to the United States.

Contact Us

Field and Resident Offices

Diplomatic Security maintains successful investigative partnerships with other federal law enforcement agencies, particularly the U.S. Marshals Service, to promote information sharing and networking within the law enforcement community. As a result of our relationships with foreign police, Diplomatic Security successfully helps the U.S. Marshals locate fugitives and conduct surveillance operations. This cooperative effort leads to the arrest and return of many high-profile fugitives.

Diplomatic Security is ready to assist federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies with travel document and other overseas investigations. Contact our offices in 23 U.S. cities (see back panel) or our headquarters in Washington, DC (see below) for questions about Diplomatic Security or to request our investigative assistance.

Criminal Investigations Division

571-345-2972

Visa Fraud
Passport Fraud
Criminal Investigative Liaison
Computer Investigations
and Forensics

Diplomatic Security Command Center

1-866-217-2089

Or visit us online at:

www.state.gov/m/ds

Atlanta Resident Office	(404) 331-3521
Boston Field Office	(617) 565-8200
Bridgeport Resident Office	(203) 579-5701
Charleston Satellite Office	(843) 746-1906
Chicago Field Office	(312) 353-6163
Dallas Resident Office	(214) 767-0700
Denver Resident Office	(303) 236-2781
Greensboro Resident Office	(336) 547-4292
Honolulu Resident Office	(808) 541-2854
Houston Field Office	(713) 209-3482
Los Angeles Field Office	(213) 894-3290
Miami Field Office	(305) 536-5781
New Orleans Resident Office	(504) 589-2010
New York Field Office	(201) 944-3787
Philadelphia Resident Office	(215) 861-3370
Phoenix Resident Office	(602) 364-7842
Portsmouth Satellite Office	(603) 334-0519
St. Louis Resident Office	(314) 539-2721
San Diego Resident Office	(619) 557-6194
San Francisco Field Office	(415) 705-1176
San Juan Resident Office	(787) 766-5704
Seattle Resident Office	(206) 220-7721
Washington Field Office	(571) 226-9300
W. Los Angeles Resident Office	(310) 235-7937

WORKING WITH OTHERS Chicago

An unidentified source alerted the Diplomatic Security agent assigned to an African nation that a sexual molester was believed to be working nearby as a child psychologist. Diplomatic Security confirmed that the subject had been arrested for molesting his foster son and had been set to stand trial in the United States before he fled. He was found guilty in absentia on all charges and sentenced to 24 years in prison. Diplomatic Security worked with local authorities to arrest the subject and arrange for his extradition to the United States to serve his prison sentence. Diplomatic Security coordinated with the U.S. Marshals, INTERPOL, the Department of Justice, and the Cook County State's Attorney's Office to ensure the successful return of the subject.



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