U.S. Department of State
Bureau of Diplomatic Security

Security Engineering Officers

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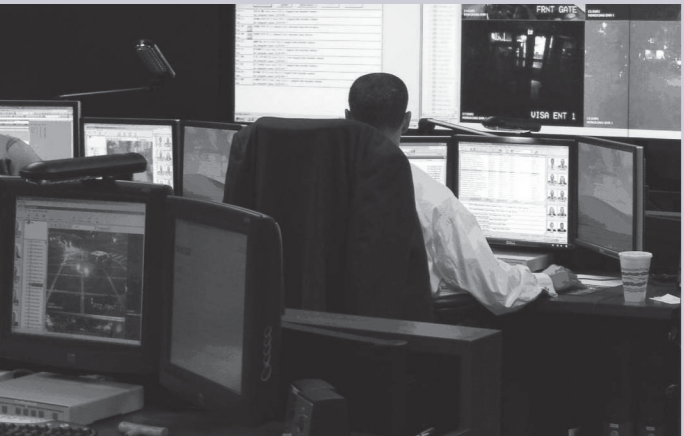
Bureau of Diplomatic Security

Security Engineering Officer

As a Security Engineering Officer (SEO) with the U.S. Department of State, you are part of the Foreign Service Specialist Diplomatic Security team that consists of highly skilled professionals who are responsible for effective security programs at over 265 U.S. embassies, missions, and consulates overseas. You will help create a more secure, stable and prosperous world economy through protecting America's technological interests both here in Washington, D.C. and abroad.

Traditionally, U.S. embassies have been havens from violence and turmoil in foreign countries. Today, they are often a target for that violence. Attacks against American diplomats and missions have become more frequent and sophisticated, making the protection of our people, facilities, and national security information an urgent priority.

To meet these challenges, we are looking for diverse, culturally aware, adaptable, well-rounded, agile, and strategic-thinking problem-solvers who possess the skills and experience required to develop, implement, and manage technical security programs. Our work in security technology began more than 40 years ago by detecting and removing clandestine listening devices from State Department facilities. Since those early days, our job has grown to keep up with rapidly evolving technology in detection equipment, computer systems, intrusion detection systems, and access control equipment.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Technical security systems development and installation is a major part of a security engineering officer's job. SEOs are increasingly called upon for their expertise as the Department's dependence on computer systems grows. As a technical security expert, an SEO advises State Department managers on a wide variety of issues. An engineer's knowledge must extend to the leading edges of electronic technology, physics, and computer science, yet SEOs must be willing to use their hands to investigate indications of a technical threat.

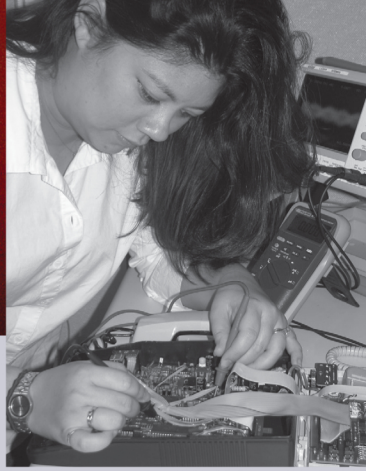
The Department has greatly expanded its security programs to combat espionage and terrorist attacks on our diplomatic facilities and personnel. For the security technology program, this expansion has increased our need to design, develop, and install sophisticated electronic detection systems. We need people who can analyze complex engineering problems and design effective systems to solve them.

SEOs also may be assigned overseas as regional computer security officers responsible for ensuring that both the classified and unclassified networks are installed and maintained according to security regulations. This includes performing evaluations and assessments of networks to ensure there is no unauthorized hardware or software installed – a critical task in today's cyber security environment. SEOs provide guidance and training to network systems administrators at U.S. missions overseas to ensure their cyber security posture is at the highest level.

QUALIFICATIONS

To apply, you must be a U.S. citizen, between 21 and 59 years of age, and available for worldwide assignment. Male applicants born after 1959 must be registered under the Military Selective Service Act.

All applicants must have the ability to understand and apply the physical and mathematical principles of electronics engineering techniques, standards, and practices related to the security-engineering field. Applicants must have at least a Bachelor of Science degree in one of the following disciplines:



Mechanical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering Technology, Electrical Engineering, Electrical Engineering Technology, Electronics Engineering, Electronics Engineering Technology, Computer Engineering, Computer Engineering Technology, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology, Physics, Engineering Physics, or Electromechanical Engineering. Degrees in the above engineering disciplines must be from institutions accredited by The Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET).

Before appointment, all applicants are required to pass a thorough background investigation and must be eligible to receive Top Secret and Sensitive Compartmented Information security clearances. Applicants also must undergo a rigorous medical clearance process.

A qualifications evaluation panel will review the experience and background of all applicants to determine if the candidate meets the basic requirements of the position. Successful applicants also must pass a writing skills assessment to be eligible to appear before an oral examination panel of the Board of Examiners for the Foreign Service. Those who pass the oral exam and final selection process are given probationary appointments as Foreign Service career candidates. Upon successful completion of this 4-year probationary period, employees are offered career appointments.

TRAINING

Security engineering officers attend approximately 9 months of specialized training in the Washington, D.C. area upon receiving their probationary appointment as a Foreign Service career candidate. Each candidate must pass all phases of training. After training, an officer is assigned to a domestic or overseas position, usually with a senior security engineering officer who provides on-the-job guidance and training. SEOs selected for computer security specialist positions are provided an additional four months of training and must pass industry standard exams (i.e. Microsoft, Cisco) for mandatory certifications.

When you join the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Diplomatic Security, you will have a number of benefits available to you, including:

- **Group life and health insurance**
- **Annual leave and sick leave accrual**
- **Retirement plan and thrift savings plan**
- **Overseas: government-provided quarters or housing allowance**
- **Home leave to the United States between overseas assignments**
- **Rest and recuperation leave, with transportation partially paid, for employees and their eligible family members assigned to designated overseas hardship posts**
- **Cost-of-living allowance where costs are substantially higher than a designated average (some U.S. cities and some overseas posts)**
- **Student loan repayment program under certain circumstances**
- **Education allowance for eligible family members under certain circumstances**
- **Danger pay at designated overseas posts**

WORLDWIDE AVAILABILITY

Security engineers are members of the Foreign Service and spend a substantial portion of their careers abroad. They are based in engineering services centers and offices located around the world. Travel to nearby countries to conduct engineering surveys and security inspections, install equipment, and manage technical security programs can occupy up to 50 percent of an officer's time overseas. Tours of duty in the United States may be for a continuous period of up to 5 years.

Learn how you can show the world a side of America it has never seen.
www.diplomaticsecurity.state.gov
Telephone: 571.345.3783
Attention: DS Recruitment Office

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