UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY

DIPLOMATIC SECURITY SERVICE

THEN&NOW

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Diplomatic Security Service

1916~2016

A TRADITION OF VIGILANCE

DSS History at a Glance

1775

With diplomatic security present at the creation of the United States, the Continental Congress establishes a Committee of Secret Correspondence to safeguard international communication. The committee evolves into today's U.S. Department of State.

1830

The State Department hires its first "dispatch agent" in New York to place confidential messages and pouches with ship captains sailing overseas.

1866

The State Department begins sending message cables, some in code, via the Trans-Atlantic telegraph.

1915

President Woodrow Wilson details U.S. Secret Service agents to the State Department to investigate passport fraud and espionage cases that threaten U.S. neutrality in World War I.

1916

Secretary of State Robert Lansing creates the first security office, the Secret Intelligence Bureau, overseen by a diplomat and staffed by investigators detailed from the U.S. Secret Service and U.S. Post Office Department.

1917

Former Secret Service Agent Joseph "Bill" Nye becomes the Department's first Chief Special Agent. Duties include escorting foreign dignitaries and investigating passport and visa fraud. With the U.S. entry into World War I, Marines and soldiers act as diplomatic couriers.

1918

Civilians replace military couriers on diplomatic courier routes following the 1918 Armistice.

1920

Robert C. Bannerman begins a 20-year term as Chief Special Agent. Amid ongoing budget challenges, Bannerman sets up numerous longstanding diplomatic security processes, especially passport investigations and, in the 1930s, counter-espionage.

1941 - 1945

World War II revolutionizes diplomatic security as the United States assumes a global role.

1946

With the rise in air transport, the Diplomatic Courier Service replaces the century-old dispatch agent system as the primary means of delivering diplomatic correspondence.

1947

The escalating Cold War increases background investigations for State Department employees. Security officers are assigned to U.S. embassies.

1948

The Department creates the Division of Security, soon expanded to the Office of Security. The office symbol SY is used for the next four decades. The Marine Security Guard Program is created.

1952

After a yearlong search, security officers uncover a listening "bug" inside the Great Seal of the United States in the U.S. ambassador's residence in Moscow, leading to a heightened Cold War counter-espionage posture for SY and a six-fold increase in the number of technical security officers. Over the next decade SY uncovers more than 100 listening devices in U.S. Embassies behind the Iron Curtain.

1965

The State Department's U.S. Navy Seabee program begins, helping to detect surveillance devices inside embassies and taking part in sensitive overseas construction projects.

1983

Following the bombings of the U.S. Embassy and U.S. Marine headquarters in Beirut, Lebanon, the State Department convenes a diplomatic security review panel led by retired U.S. Navy Admiral Bobby Inman. The Antiterrorism Assistance program is launched to train foreign civilian security and law-enforcement personnel.

1985

Based on the Inman Panel's recommendations, Congress and U.S. Secretary of State George P. Shultz authorize resources to create the Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS) and the Diplomatic Security Service (DSS).

1986

President Ronald Reagan signs the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986, providing DS with a formal structure.

1998

Following U.S. Embassy bombings in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, DSS staffing is increased by 25 percent, Congress approves $1.4 billion to build more secure embassies, and Regional Security Officers are granted more authority and responsibility, reporting directly to Chiefs of Mission.

2001

Expeditionary diplomacy after the 9/11 al-Qa'ida attacks requires DS to protect American diplomacy in increasingly challenging environments. Since 2002, more than 90 U.S. and foreign security and law enforcement professionals have lost their lives protecting U.S. diplomats.

2003

The DS Rewards for Justice Program pays out the program's largest reward at the time for information that led to the location of Saddam Hussein's sons, Uday and Qusay.

2012 - 2015

Recommendations by the Accountability Review Board for Benghazi, convened after the attack on U.S. compounds in Libya, lead to the creation of the DSS High-Threat Programs Directorate— as well as recruiting more special agents, adding 1,000 Marine Security Guards, and strengthening an ever-closer security partnership with the U.S. military.

DIPLOMATIC SECURITY SERVICE

THEN&NOW

CHIEFS OF SECURITY 1917-PRESENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SPECIAL AGENT

Joseph M. Nye
1917 - 1920

Robert C. Bannerman
1920 - 1940

Thomas F. Fitch
1940 - 1947

SECURITY OFFICE

Robert L. Bannerman
1945 - 1947

DIVISION OF SECURITY

Donald L. Nicholson
1948 - 1952

John W. Ford
1952

OFFICE OF SECURITY (SY)

John W. Ford
1952 - 1953

Dennis A. Flinn
1953 - 1956

E. Tomlin Bailey
1956 - 1958

William O. Boswell
1958 - 1962

John F. Reilly
1962 - 1963

G. Marvin Gentile
1964 - 1974

Victor H. Dikeos
1974 - 1978

Karl D. Ackerman
1978 - 1982

Marvin L. Garrett, Jr.
1982 - 1983

David C. Fields
1984 - 1985

BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY (DS)

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DIPLOMATIC SECURITY

Robert E. Lamb
1985 - 1989

Sheldon J. Krys
1989 - 1992

Anthony C. E. Quainton
1992 - 1995

Eric J. Boswell
1996 - 1998

David G. Carpenter
1998 - 2002

Francis X. Taylor
2002 - 2005

Richard J. Griffin
2005 - 2007

Gregory B. Starr (Acting)
2007 - 2008

Eric J. Boswell
2008 - 2012

Gregory B. Starr
2013 -

DIPLOMATIC SECURITY SERVICE (DSS)

DIRECTOR, DIPLOMATIC SECURITY SERVICE, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE

David C. Fields
1985 - 1986

Louis E. Schwartz, Jr.
1986 - 1988

Clark M. Dittmer
1988 - 1993

Mark E. Mulvey
1993 - 1996

Gregorie Bujac
1996 - 1998

Peter E. Bergin
1998 - 2003

Joe D. Morton
2003 - 2007

Gregory B. Starr
2007 - 2009

Patrick Donovan
2009

Jeffrey W. Culver
2009 - 2011

Scott Bultrowicz
2011 - 2012

Gregory B. Starr
2013

Bill A. Miller
2014 -

THEN: Special agent badges from 1917 to the 1980s. The origins of the Diplomatic Security Service began in 1916 with the creation of a small wartime office called the Secret Intelligence Bureau within the U.S. Department of State, Office of the Counselor, that acted as an information clearinghouse and oversaw a handful of special agents detailed from other federal agencies. Early in 1917, the department hired its first Chief Special Agent. Over the decades, State Department special agents have carried a variety of federal law enforcement badges pictured above. (U.S. Department of State photos)

NOW: Today's special agent, diplomatic courier, and security engineer badges. Following decades of evolution, the Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) was formally established in 1985. The Diplomatic Courier Service also joined DSS in 1985. Later in the 1980s, the security engineering officers were consolidated within DSS from the Regional Bureaus to better address developing security needs. (U.S. Department of State photos)

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INTRODUCTION
A TRADITION OF VIGILANCE

The U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service, often known by its initials DSS or DS, traces its origins to 1916 and was formally established in its current form in 1985 to address growing security concerns as terrorists and militants increasingly targeted American diplomats at home and abroad.

Although the first organizational structures of DSS were put in place in the World War I era, privacy and security were integral to American diplomacy even from before the founding of the nation. However, the State Department of past eras was a comparatively tiny organization, and often the diplomats themselves were conducting rudimentary security as part of their wide-ranging duties. By 1916, the United States found itself emerging as a world power while grappling with complex international threats. This led the State Department to establish for the first time a cohesive group of permanently assigned professionals to focus specifically on diplomatic security.

Ever since, Diplomatic Security specialists have continuously adapted to meet evolving risks. Today, DS supports all aspects of diplomacy. DS professionals can be found around the globe, at American embassies, consulates, diplomatic meetings, even at international sporting events, as well as behind the scenes in international investigations or partnering with federal law enforcement or foreign security professionals. DSS agents, engineers, couriers, technical specialists, and others are on duty around the clock across 24 time zones to provide a safe and secure environment for the conduct of U.S. foreign policy.

Gregory B. Starr
Assistant Secretary of State
for Diplomatic Security

Bill A. Miller
Director,
Diplomatic Security Service

BEGINNINGS...

Diplomacy is as old as civilization and always has relied on security.

For thousands of years, heralds and trusted emissaries have been allowed safe passage in foreign lands under diplomatic protection. Such diplomatic security can be traced in writing to ancient Greece and Rome (in *The Iliad*, Homer refers to heralds of the two adversarial powers as "messengers of Zeus and men"), but the practice was widespread among diverse cultures. Persia, China, the Aztec and Incan empires, Benin, and Buganda all employed emissaries and developed courier services and communication networks to protect emissaries and their confidential official messages. Writing seven centuries ago, an Islamic scholar in Cairo recommended that delegations travel with at least three emissaries: a man of learning to conduct negotiations, a scribe to record the outcome, and a watchful "man of the sword" to protect the group.

01.

From American Independence to the 1900s

From the American Revolution through the early 1900s, U.S. foreign policy focused on establishing and preserving the nation, developing international trade, expanding national borders, and asserting regional interests. In this era, when American representatives overseas primarily conducted business and trade, diplomatic security was mainly concerned with ensuring private channels of communication between Washington, D.C., and the nation's emissaries and consuls.

WORLD EVENTS

/ 1775 - 1783 /
Revolutionary War and Independence

/ 1789 /
U.S. establishes the world's first constitutional democracy

/ 1789 - 1799 /
French Revolution

/ 1812 - 1815 /
War of 1812

/ 1812 /
Napoleon invades Russia

/ 1823 /
Monroe Doctrine

/ 1837 - 1901 /
Queen Victoria's reign

/ 1846 - 1848 /
U.S. War with Mexico

/ 1861 - 1865 /
American Civil War

/ 1865 /
President Lincoln assassinated

/ 1881 /
President Garfield assassinated

/ 1898 /
Spanish-American War

/ 1900 /
Boxer Rebellion in China

/ 1901 /
President McKinley assassinated

/ 1905 /
Russo-Japanese War

/ 1914 /
Panama Canal opens

Photo at left: Secretary of State William Seward (1861 – 1869)

HOW DIPLOMATIC SECURITY EVOLVED: BEFORE THE 20TH CENTURY, THE U.S. APPROACH TO DIPLOMACY WAS VASTLY DIFFERENT AND LESS COMPLICATED THAN TODAY. THE UNITED STATES WAS NOT A WORLD POWER, AND THE ENTIRE STAFF OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE TYPICALLY NUMBERED IN THE DOZENS. DIPLOMACY WAS FOCUSED ON TRADE AND COMMERCE. IN THE ABSENCE OF A LARGE GROUP OF PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMATS, PRESIDENTS FREQUENTLY SENT MILITARY OFFICERS ON DIPLOMATIC ERRANDS.

Committee of Secret Correspondence: Diplomatic security went hand-in-hand with the birth of the United States. In November 1775, during the earliest months of the American Revolution, the Continental Congress established the Committee of Secret Correspondence to undertake secure communication with potential allies. The committee later evolved into the Foreign Affairs Committee and, under the U.S. Constitution, the Department of Foreign Affairs before being renamed the Department of State.

First diplomat, first security threats: In December 1776, Benjamin Franklin arrived in Paris as the first U.S. diplomat. He immediately faced pervasive diplomatic security threats that included regular intercepts of his messages. It was later learned that Edward Bancroft, trusted member of the American mission, was on the British payroll and shared all U.S. correspondence.

Dispatch and Despatch: As the young nation established itself, the State Department developed a network of dispatch ships, bearers of dispatch (sometimes called "despatch"), forwarding agents, and dispatch agents to ensure the safe delivery of vital correspondence with sea captains and trusted merchants.

Wary of diplomatic entanglements: Diplomacy was not given high priority by the nation's founders, who often distrusted the inherent secrecy of old world diplomacy. When diplomacy was deemed necessary, it often was intertwined with military affairs. Former soldier William Eaton, U.S. consul in Tunis, led a contingent of Marines and sailors into Tripoli during the First Barbary War. In 1846, President Polk dispatched Marine Lt. Archibald Gillespie to Mexico's California province to deliver confidential diplomatic messages, committed to memory, that would help lead to California statehood.

U.S. Army soldiers were part of an eight-nation force that broke the 55-day siege of international diplomatic compounds in Peking (now Beijing), China, during the Boxer Rebellion in the summer of 1900. (Artwork courtesy U.S. Army Center for Military History)

U.S. Marines were frequently deployed to China in the 1890s and continuously from 1905 through the start of World War II. The photo above was taken circa 1918-1922 atop the newly completed West Barracks in central Beijing. (Photo courtesy Chinamarine.org)

Secretary of State William Seward, was stabbed the same night as the Lincoln assassination, then was guarded by a military detail. In 1866 he sent the first diplomatic cables to overseas posts. (Library of Congress)

Lafayette Baker, a self-styled "secret service detective," was temporarily hired by the State Department during the Civil War to investigate passport fraud and to monitor and detain Confederate sympathizers seeking contacts with foreign nations. (Library of Congress)

Civil War diplomacy and a diplomatic detective: In the U.S. Civil War, American diplomats sought to prevent international recognition of the Confederacy. The State Department in that era still had some domestic authorities, and President Abraham Lincoln placed Secretary of State William Seward in charge of detaining political prisoners, spies, and those suspected of disloyalty to the Union. Seward implemented a system of passports to better monitor and detain Confederate sympathizers suspected of seeking contacts with foreign nations. He worked closely with a special agent, Lafayette Baker, who used the term "secret service" to describe the group of unofficial detectives investigating international Confederate threats. In April 1865, pro-Confederacy conspirators stabbed Secretary Seward the same night President Lincoln was assassinated, and the injured Seward was guarded by a military detail.

The first cables: Peace brought a resumed emphasis on commerce. In 1866, with the opening of the first sustained trans-Atlantic telegraph, Secretary of State Seward sent the Department's first-ever cable, a 23-word message to U.S. Envoy John Bigelow in Paris. Two weeks later, Secretary Seward sent the first encrypted cable, a 780-word coded telegram to Bigelow. A lengthy and outdated cipher meant the message took two days to send and cost the then-astronomical sum of $19,450.50 (close to $300,000 in today's dollars, and three times Seward's annual salary). The bill was not paid for five years, but the State Department swiftly adopted a new streamlined code for cables.

Marines and overseas security: The U.S. Marine Corps has a long tradition of serving alongside U.S. diplomats and consuls. In the Boxer Rebellion of 1900, American diplomats were among those from eight nations besieged for 55 days in the Beijing legation compound by members of a Chinese uprising. A detachment of U.S. Marines acted as part of a multinational force that defended the compound. U.S. soldiers and Marines deployed from the Philippines were among the international forces that broke the siege.

02.

World War I – Diplomatic Security and Special Agents

The threats of World War I, combined with the United States' emerging role as a world power, led the State Department in 1916 to establish a cohesive group of permanently assigned professionals to focus specifically on diplomatic security. Ever since, the State Department's special agents and other Diplomatic Security specialists have continuously adapted to meet evolving threats.

WORLD EVENTS

/ 1914 /
World War I breaks out in Europe

/ 1914 - 1917 /
President Woodrow Wilson seeks neutrality

/ 1915 - 1917 /
Espionage and spy networks target United States

/ 1917 /
Germany resumes unrestricted submarine attacks on neutral shipping

/ 1917 /
Germany offers to help Mexico regain U.S. lands

/ 1917 /
U.S. enters war

/ 1917 /
Communists take over Russia

/ 1918 /
Armistice

/ 1919 /
Paris Peace Conference and Treaty of Versailles

Photo at left: Chief Special Agent Joseph M. "Bill" Nye (1917-1920)

Wartime passports: Belligerent nations suddenly required passports to cross borders. Up to that time, rail travel throughout Europe had all but eliminated passport requirements, and as many as 120,000 visiting Americans found themselves stranded overseas with European nations demanding proof of citizenship. Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan on August 1, 1914, authorized embassies to begin issuing passports, and American diplomatic missions begin literally working around the clock. For example, the understaffed U.S. Embassy in Paris issued 4,500 emergency passports in one week.

Embassy clerks as couriers: With regular deliveries disrupted, two State Department clerks began the first-ever courier duties, hand-carrying dispatches between London, Berlin, and Vienna on an as-needed basis.

Theft and forgery of U.S. passports: While the "Great War" raged for 2½ years, the United States sought to maintain neutrality. Yet the United States was increasingly the target of aggressive espionage and sabotage, as well as passport and visa fraud. By December 1914, reports reached President Woodrow Wilson that the German ambassador to the United States approved the forgery and theft of U.S. passports so that German combatants could travel in and out of war zones via neutral countries.

Secretary Lansing's "Secret Service of the State Department": In late 1915, Secretary of State Robert Lansing recommended creating a State Department-led international law-enforcement task force to investigate ongoing German espionage and passport fraud.

Secretary of State Robert Lansing in 1916 created the State Department's first security office in response to World War I threats. After receiving congressional authorization, Lansing appointed the first special agents in 1917. (Library of Congress)

Count Johann Heinrich von Bernstorff, Germany's ambassador to the United States, was escorted out of the country by a State Department special agent after the United States entered World War I in April 1917. (Library of Congress)

When his recommendation failed to gain support, Secretary Lansing on April 4, 1916, created his own State Department investigative and law-enforcement service, the Secret Intelligence Bureau. In his memoirs, Lansing called the group "the Secret Service of the Department of State." The small office was staffed by Treasury Department agents and postal inspectors detailed from their home agencies and overseen by Leland Harrison, a fast-rising junior Foreign Service officer. In addition to counter-espionage and counter-intelligence-gathering efforts, the agents investigated passport fraud and protected U.S. and foreign diplomats on U.S. soil; the office was also a clearinghouse for threat-reporting from overseas posts.

In early 1917, Germany resumed unrestricted submarine warfare, with Lansing's agents informing the president of the decision in advance of formal notification by the German ambassador. U.S. public opinion to enter the war reached a tipping point after British intelligence decoded a German cable offering to assist Mexico in reconquering former territories in the southwestern United States.

Joseph "Bill" Nye, the first Chief Special Agent: In early 1917, Congress granted the State Department legal authority to hire its own federal agents, and in February 1917 Secretary of State Lansing appointed former Secret Service agent Joseph "Bill" Nye as Special Assistant to the Secretary, with the title of Chief Special Agent. Nye had served on the protection details of Presidents Taft and Wilson, and his new duties included personally protecting the German ambassador until he departed the United States in April following the U.S. declaration of war.

Leland Harrison headed the State Department's first security office, known, despite its tiny staff, as the "Secret Intelligence Bureau." He oversaw security investigations, established liaison with federal investigators, hired special agents, and established a diplomatic courier network. (Library of Congress)

Joseph M. "Bill" Nye, the U.S. Department of State's first Chief Special Agent, 1917-1920. (Library of Congress)

Nye also began hiring additional special agents, mostly in New York City, recruited mainly from among postal inspectors. The new agents provided a protective detail for Secretary Lansing and made secure travel arrangements. Also, Special Agent Robert C. Bannerman often accompanied President Wilson's special envoy, Colonel Edward M. House, during his diplomatic travels.

Morning intelligence report: Harrison and Special Agent Nye's team compiled a daily 8 a.m. intelligence summary for Secretary Lansing. Along with information from overseas posts, the report included information from wiretaps on German Embassy telephones and secretly decoded telegrams. Lansing often shared the daily intelligence report with President Wilson, contributing to his wartime decision-making.

Military couriers: A formal courier network also was implemented that evolved into the Diplomatic Courier Service, which in later decades became part of the Diplomatic Security Service. In October 1917, nine U.S. Marines were assigned to courier duty, establishing routes in Asia and Europe. In March 1918, with the massive buildup of the American Expeditionary Force in France, General John J. Pershing authorized the U.S. Army to launch a courier service between Paris and Washington.

The Armistice of November 11, 1918, was followed two months later by a diplomatic delegation to the Versailles Peace Conference, headed by President Wilson, which included a high emphasis on diplomatic security and secure communications.

Nye resigns: In May 1920, with Lansing's departure from the State Department, Chief Special Agent Nye resigned as Chief Special Agent to accept an executive security position with Guaranty Trust Co., a New York bank. Nye had been well-liked by the foreign royalty and diplomats he had escorted (he apparently kept a higher profile than later special agents, occasionally being mentioned in newspapers; a Washington memoir in 1920 called Nye "the famous Secret Service man who travels with royalty"). Incoming Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby wrote that he learned of Nye's departure with "almost a feeling of dismay." Nye's successor would go on to define many of the enduring aspects of the Diplomatic Security Service.

Among the early forerunners of today's Diplomatic Courier Service, U.S. Army officers (pictured here in 1918) served as couriers during World War I and the Paris peace negotiations. U.S. Marines also served as State Department couriers from 1917 until after the war, when civilian couriers took over the diplomatic routes. (U.S. Department of State)

03.

The 1920s and 1930s – The Bannerman Years: Consolidation and Growing Threats

The Office of the Chief Special Agent suffered inevitable postwar cuts while being tasked with expanded duties. Robert C. Bannerman became Chief Special Agent in 1920, holding the post for two decades and establishing practices for protecting visiting dignitaries and investigating fraud. In the 1930s, widespread passport and visa fraud provided early warnings of the extent of Soviet and Nazi spy networks.

WORLD EVENTS

/ 1920 - 1939 /
Isolationist United States is a reluctant world power

/ 1920 - 1939 /
International Bolshevism seeks global revolution

/ 1921 - 1922 /
Washington Naval Conference, first international arms-control treaty

/ 1922 /
Soviet Union established

/ 1922 /
Fascist takeover of Italy

/ 1924 /
Immigration Act includes restrictions on "radical" foreigners and anarchists

/ 1929 - 1939 /
Great Depression; global economic devastation

/ 1933 /
Fascist takeover of Germany

/ 1936 - 1939 /
Spanish civil war

/ 1937 /
Japan invades China

/ 1938 - 1939 /
Germany annexes Austria and Czechoslovakia

Photo at left: Chief Special Agent Robert C. Bannerman (1920-1940)

HOW DIPLOMATIC SECURITY EVOLVED: POSTWAR BUDGET CUTS REDUCED THE NUMBER OF AGENTS FROM TEN TO JUST TWO IN 1920, BUT SEVERAL MORE WERE QUICKLY REHIRED DUE TO THE HEAVY WORKLOAD. THERE TYPICALLY WERE FOUR TO SIX SPECIAL AGENTS ON DUTY AT ANY ONE TIME THROUGH THE 1920S AND 1930S, ALL IN NEW YORK, PLUS THE CHIEF SPECIAL AGENT IN WASHINGTON, ASSISTED BY SEVERAL CLERKS. THEY ARRANGED SECURITY FOR VISITING DIGNITARIES, INVESTIGATED PASSPORT AND VISA FRAUD, CONDUCTED INQUIRIES ON BEHALF OF U.S. CONSULAR STAFFS ABROAD, AND BUILT CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS WITH FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT.

Robert C. Bannerman – longest serving Chief Special Agent, from 1920 to 1940. He established practices for protecting visiting dignitaries and investigating fraud. His World War I predecessor, Chief Special Agent Nye, enjoyed being seen in the spotlight with visiting royalty and diplomats, but Bannerman set an example of privacy and behind-the-scenes service that continues to characterize diplomatic security today. (U.S. Department of State)

Longest serving security chief: Former postal inspector Robert C. Bannerman was one of the first three Diplomatic Security agents recruited by Chief Special Agent Joseph Nye during World War I. After Nye's resignation in 1920, Bannerman became the State Department's Chief Special Agent and held the post until his death in 1940 at age 66. Bannerman established many practices still in use today, including protective details, investigating passport fraud, and assisting U.S. immigration authorities.

Bannerman legacy: In addition to shaping diplomatic security during its first two decades, Bannerman established a diplomatic security family legacy. His son, Robert L. Bannerman, joined the New York Field Office in the mid-1930s and after World War II led a comprehensive security reorganization and expansion that created the State Department's Office of Security. His grandson, Robert B. Bannerman, served more than 20 years as a special agent until being killed in an off-duty vehicle accident in 1986 in Kenya.

Couriers come and go (and come back): The aftermath of World War I led to a growing number of U.S. diplomatic missions in newly created nations. This resulted in chronic under-funding and under-staffing across the State Department. The courier service was cut immediately after the war, was reinstituted by Bannerman, then was cut again during the austere years of the Great Depression. The State Department at times made do with just three overworked couriers, and overseas posts complained of delays and security risks as they resorted to sending documents through foreign postal systems.

Terrorist bombings: Anarchist bombers in the aftermath of World War I killed approximately 60 Americans, mainly on U.S. soil. In Argentina and Uruguay, two U.S. diplomatic missions were bombed within weeks of each other in 1926 to protest the controversial U.S. trial of accused anarchists Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti.

The "Black Chamber" and leaking classified information: From World War I until 1929, a small counter-intelligence code-breaking team was led by Herbert O. Yardley (jointly funded by the State Department and War Department) and deciphered more than 45,000 encrypted cables by countries such as Japan and Germany. In 1929, Secretary of State Henry L. Stimson closed down the operation, partly to save money and partly on the grounds that "gentlemen don't read each other's mail." Yardley's 1931 book, *"The American Black Chamber,"* outlined the extent of U.S. peacetime code breaking. The controversial bestseller led Congress to pass a 1933 law making it a felony for former government employees to publish or share classified information.

Tiny, busy staff: After being commissioned as a special agent in 1937, Robert L. Bannerman, son of the Chief Special Agent, offered a glimpse into the daily workload of the special agents, who all operated out of New York. Bannerman was among four special agents working under the New York special agent in charge. The average agent worked on 30 to 40 cases a month, including: passport and visa fraud investigations; special law enforcement inquiries on behalf of consular officers abroad; liaisons with federal agencies; and arrangements for visiting dignitaries and heads of state. The special agents also conducted background inquiries on candidates for State Department employment. Most investigations were coordinated through a network of regional and local postal inspectors. However, for investigations outside of New York, the four special agents divided the nation into four regions and regularly traveled by railroad to conduct in-person investigations, usually in multi-week circuit trips. Bannerman recalled that in one year he visited every one of the then 48 states at least twice.

Soviet and Nazi espionage: Throughout the 1930s, the United States faced growing security and espionage threats from Nazi Germany, Imperial Japan, and the Soviet Union. In an era when most government officials were male, the Soviet intelligence service ensured there was no shortage of female companionship for embassy staff and Marines in Moscow. A Soviet intelligence officer secretly served as an embassy chauffeur, and a U.S. military attaché arriving in 1939 found Moscow Ballet dancers had free run of the premises, with female intelligence agents routinely attending Embassy parties. The diplomatic atmosphere in the 1930s was based on building trust – at least on the U.S. side. One American ambassador confided in his diary that if the Soviets were listening in on his private meetings, "so much the better – the sooner they would find that we are friends, not enemies."

In Berlin during the 1930s, two trusted employees of the U.S. Naval Attaché's office were undercover Nazi agents who obtained codebooks, classified warship data, and hid a secret microphone in the attaché's conference room.

Passport fraud for American volunteers in the Spanish Civil War: In one far-reaching example of passport fraud, undercover Soviet sympathizers during the 1936-1939 Spanish Civil War stole the passports of 2,000 American volunteer fighters. The stolen passports were shipped to Moscow and reissued to communist intelligence agents. As a result, the State Department designed new passports, and special agents conducted exhaustive shipboard interviews with returning Spanish Civil War veterans to ensure they were actually U.S. citizens, not imposters.

Passport investigations uncover spy networks: Passport fraud often was the most solid crime that could be investigated in spy networks. For example, in numerous cases foreigners working in the United States attempted to obtain fake American passports using the identities of long-deceased children whose age and ethnicity matched their own. Once State Department special agents discovered the pattern, they were among the first U.S. authorities to recognize the extent of foreign spy networks.

In 1939, State Department special agents discovered that a major travel agency, World Tourists, Inc., was run entirely by Communist Party members who routinely stole and copied passports of American travelers. The leader of the U.S. Communist Party was jailed for his role in the passport fraud.

Historic royal visit: On June 7-12, 1939, three months before the outbreak of World War II, Britain's King George VI and his queen, parents of the future Queen Elizabeth II, paid an unprecedented state visit to the United States. Their travels to Washington, D.C., New York City, and President Roosevelt's home in Hyde Park, New York, helped secure U.S. public support in the looming conflict with Germany. It was the largest head-of-state visit to date, and security arrangements were meticulously coordinated by Chief Special Agent Robert C. Bannerman, who accompanied Secretary of State Cordell Hull to meet the royal couple at the Canadian border. Security included coordination with federal agencies and police jurisdictions across several states, the Army and Navy, the Secret Service, the National Guard, and railroad police.

Bannerman's death: On February 27, 1940, the 66-year-old Robert C. Bannerman died of a heart attack four days after falling ill. *The New York Times* called him the "mystery man" of the State Department, adding, "Throughout his career he kept himself and his work strictly anonymous." An Associated Press (AP) diplomatic correspondent wrote that "the strain of the endless details of that visit [by King George VI] may have helped to bring his death." The AP added that details of Bannerman's ongoing work in investigating German spy rings and passport fraud "cannot yet be told, because the kind of work he did must continue to be done by his successors. And in the State Department – which is jealous of its secrets – the Office of the Chief Special Agent is the most secret of all."

Britain's King George VI rides with President Franklin D. Roosevelt (protected by Secret Service agents) during a historic 1939 royal visit meticulously planned and organized by the State Department's Office of the Chief Special Agent. Taking place weeks before the start of World War II, it was the most complex head-of-state visit up to that time. (FDR Presidential Library)

THEN&NOW

1937: U.S. Marines guard the entrance to the U.S. diplomatic compound at Beijing, China in July 1937. An estimated 1,300 Americans were seeking safety during the Japanese invasion of China. Marines began protecting U.S. diplomatic facilities in China in the 1890s. (AP/Wide World)

2013: Marines raise the American flag at the U.S. Consulate General in Shenyang, China, on December 30, 2013, at 7:30 a.m. The newly established Marine Security Guard (MSG) Detachment in Shenyang was part of a worldwide expansion of 35 new detachments. The formal agreement for MSGs between the Marine Corps and State Department has been in place since 1948. However, the Marines and the State Department have a long history of collaboration, dating back to the early days of the nation. (U.S. Department of State)

04.

World War II – Supporting Allied Victory

U.S. entry into World War II established the nation as a global power, with diplomatic security specialists supporting the massive military effort.

WORLD EVENTS

/ 1939 /
Germany invades Poland, World War II starts in Europe

/ 1939 - 1945 /
Global conflict consumes 60 to 85 million lives (3 to 4 percent of the world's population)

/ 1941 /
Germany invades Soviet Russia

/ 1941 /
Japan attacks Pearl Harbor; Axis declare war on the United States

/ 1940 - 1945 /
Wartime industrialization transforms United States into a superpower

/ 1945 /
Allied victory

Photo at left: Secretary of State Cordell Hull (1933 - 1944)

HOW DIPLOMATIC SECURITY EVOLVED: THE SEVEN SPECIAL AGENTS IN 1940 INCREASED TO 47 BY THE END OF THE WAR. SPECIAL AGENTS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROTECTING KEY STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AS WELL AS THE SAFE DETENTION OF ENEMY DIPLOMATS AND OTHER CITIZENS OF ENEMY NATIONS. THE UNITED STATES RAPIDLY PLACED ITSELF ON WARTIME FOOTING, WITH THE MILITARY TAKING OVER OR AUGMENTING NUMEROUS GOVERNMENT SECURITY FUNCTIONS. THROUGHOUT THE WAR, THERE WAS EXTENSIVE MERGING OF MILITARY AND FEDERAL CIVILIAN FUNCTIONS, AS WELL AS TEMPORARY WARTIME EXPANSION OF NEARLY ALL FEDERAL ACTIVITIES. THE NUMBER OF STATE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL GREW TENFOLD, FROM 763 PERSONNEL IN 1936 TO 7,623 EMPLOYEES IN 1946 AFTER THE DEPARTMENT ACQUIRED STAFF PREVIOUSLY ASSIGNED TO WARTIME AGENCIES.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt (left) confers with Secretary of State Cordell Hull, who served until the final months of World War II. The day after the Pearl Harbor attack that brought the United States into World War II, Hull began the Secretary of State's permanent protective detail that continues to the present day. (Library of Congress)

Security detail for the Secretary: On December 8, 1941, the day after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, Secretary of State Cordell Hull established a security detail, marking the beginning of the Secretary of State's permanent protective detail that continues to the present day.

Clear lines of authority: In June 1939 President Franklin Roosevelt, hoping to avoid overlapping law enforcement efforts of World War I, directed the FBI to handle all U.S. efforts to counter espionage and sabotage. The FBI also handled all investigations of federal employees suspected of wrongdoing, to include State Department personnel, as well as crimes committed at U.S. posts overseas. Special agents continued their traditional duties of dignitary protection, passport and visa investigations, and background checks on prospective State Department employees.

Organizing security: The Chief Special Agent (Thomas Fitch from 1940 to 1947) reported to the Assistant Secretary of State for Administration, who also served as the Department's Security Officer. In 1944, four Assistant Security Officer positions were created, one each for cryptography, distribution of telegrams, overseas security, and physical security of the State Department building.

Marine guards at embassies; Army couriers: In July 1941 the Marine Corps established its first embassy detachment in wartime London, with approximately 60 Marines conducting security and escorting diplomatic couriers. After the U.S. entry into World War II, Marine and Army personnel spanned diplomatic posts around the globe and assumed courier duties.

U.S. officials process two Japanese diplomats in the early 1940s. The Chief Special Agent's office oversaw the custody of approximately 25,000 Axis diplomats and officials during World War II until the U.S. government arranged exchanges with American diplomats held by Axis powers. (U.S. Department of State)

Protecting enemy diplomats and detainees: With the outbreak of war, the Office of the Chief Special Agent oversaw the safe treatment of diplomats and family members from Axis nations.

German and Japanese diplomats in the United States were quickly transported to secluded resort hotels in West Virginia, followed by diplomats from Italy, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Romania. Axis diplomats from Latin American also were transported to U.S. soil and temporarily housed at hotels in Virginia, North Carolina, and Ohio, as well as Immigration Service camps in Texas and New Mexico. With Allied battlefield successes starting in late 1942, new groups of enemy diplomats were taken into custody.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Navy evacuated Japanese officials, including consular, government, and business officials, from Honolulu, Hawaii, to San Diego, California. The State Department was ordered to hold them "incommunicado" for several months so they could not disclose valuable information about the state of the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor. The Office of the Chief Special Agent quietly arranged their detention at an isolated dude ranch not far from historic Tombstone, Arizona.

In all, special agents oversaw the custody of about 25,000 detainees, including families and children, and coordinated 1,500 diplomatic exchanges in neutral countries; U.S. diplomats in Europe were exchanged in Portugal and southern France while U.S. diplomats in Asia were exchanged in India and Mozambique.

Classified documents: Document classification during World War II assumed names familiar to those who handle classified information today. In partnership with Great Britain, the Office of Wartime Information introduced "Top Secret," "Secret," and "Confidential" labels that still remain in use.

Locally engaged custodians safeguard U.S. embassies behind enemy lines: During the war, diplomatic property in enemy nations was entrusted to custodians, usually former embassy employees paid by a neutral protecting power. For example, Switzerland served as protecting power for German interests and property in the United States, and for U.S. interests in Germany, Japan, and nations occupied by the Axis powers. As Allied forces liberated cities across Eastern Europe and in Berlin, Soviet forces refused to recognize the neutral status of custodian employees in Eastern Europe and arrested them for being U.S. spies.

Special agents enter German and Japanese embassies: The unconditional surrender of Germany and Japan meant the two warring powers temporarily lost their status as sovereign nations. Switzerland relinquished its role as the protecting power of Axis embassies, and State Department special agents in Washington, D.C., were responsible for their safekeeping.

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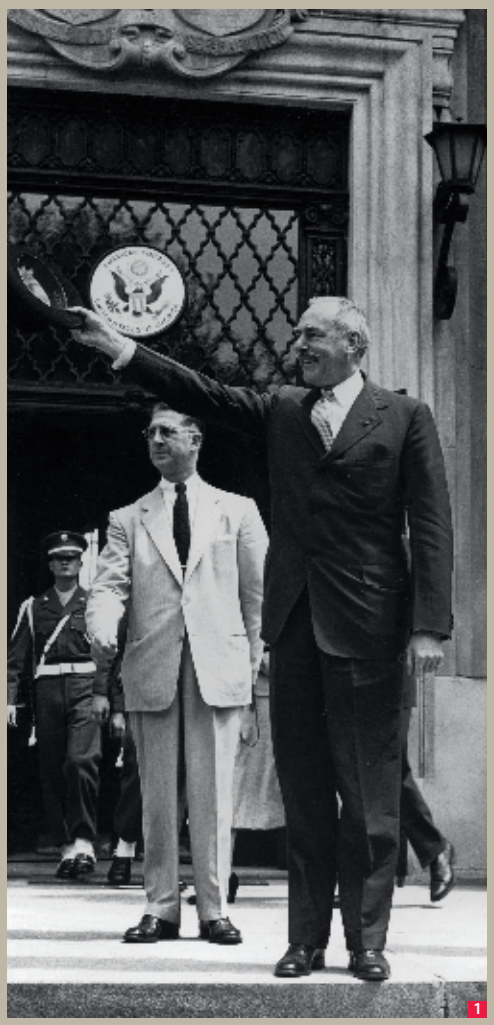
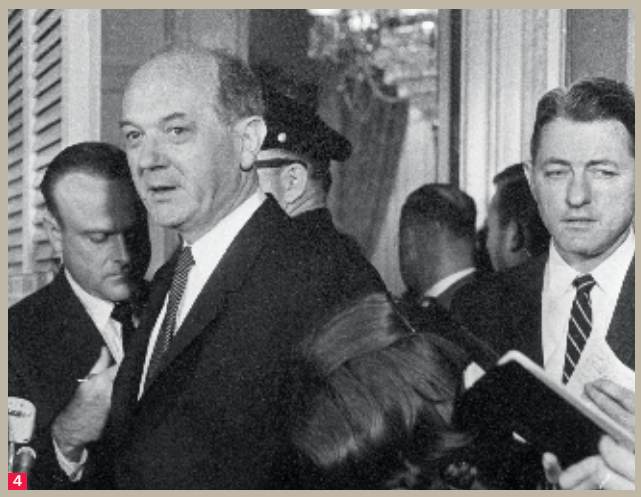
U.S. SECRETARIES OF STATE WITH DIPLOMATIC SECURITY PROTECTION





1. Dean Acheson, 1952; Vienna
2. John Foster Dulles, 1956; Saigon
3. Christian Herter (with West Berlin Mayor Willy Brandt), 1959; West Berlin
4. Dean Rusk, 1961; Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.
5. William P. Rodgers, 1970; NATO meeting, Rome
6. Alexander Haig (with U.K. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher), 1981; Washington, D.C.
7. George P. Shultz and wife, 1994; Los Angeles Olympics
8. James A. Baker III, 1991; Kurdish refugee camp on Turkey-Iraq border

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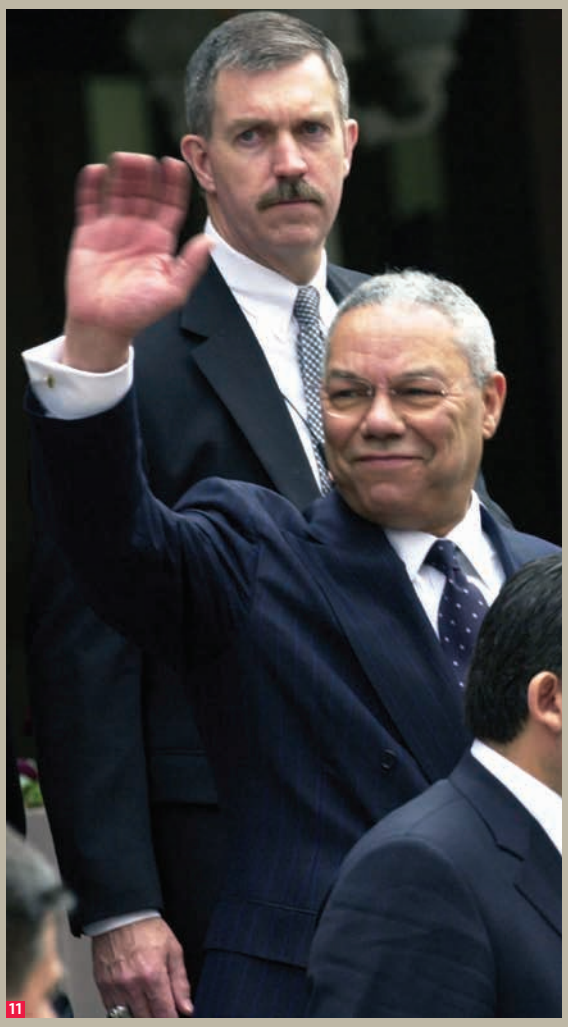
U.S. Information Service: Image number 1
U.S. Department of State: Image numbers 2, 5, 6, and 7
Pressebild Schubert, Berlin-Tempelhof: Image number 3
Washington Post: Image number 4
AP/Wide World: Image number 8

THEN&NOW

U.S. SECRETARIES OF STATE WITH DIPLOMATIC SECURITY PROTECTION (CONTINUED)



9. Warren Christopher (with Jordan's King Hussein), 1993; Amman
10. Madeleine Albright (with German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer), 2000; Dresden
11. Colin Powell (with Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul), 2003; Ankara
12. Condoleezza Rice, 2005; Irbil
13. Hillary Rodham Clinton (with Haiti's President Rene Preval), 2010; Port-au-Prince
14. John Kerry, 2015; ASEAN Forum, Kuala Lumpur

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U.S. Department of State: Image number 9
AP/Wide World: Image numbers 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14

05.

1945 to 1963 – Postwar & Cold War years: Creating the Office of Security (SY)

Following the Allied victory in 1945, the United States attained superpower status and oversaw global responsibilities while countering the growing threat of international communism. The State Department established an expanded Office of Security (known for the next four decades by the abbreviation SY), began a formal partnership with the Marine Corps for embassy security guards, and started posting Diplomatic Security officers on embassy staffs.

WORLD EVENTS

/ 1945 /
The United States becomes superpower, actively engaged in global affairs

/ 1945 - 1949 /
The United Nations, NATO, and other international organizations are created

/ 1945 - 1963 /
Asia, Africa, and Latin America undergo armed struggles against colonialism

/ 1946 - 1950 /
The Cold War takes hold

/ 1948 - 1949 /
Berlin Airlift, Marshall Plan, rebuilding of Germany and Japan

/ 1948 /
Israeli independence and Arab-Israeli War

/ 1949 /
Communist takeover of mainland China

/ 1949 /
Nuclear arms race begins

/ 1950 - 1956 /
McCarthy era

/ 1950 - 1953 /
Korean War

/ 1959 /
Communist takeover of Cuba

/ 1961 /
Berlin Wall built

/ 1962 /
Cuban missile crisis

/ 1963 /
Kennedy assassination

Photo at left: Special Agent William DeFossett

Diplomatic couriers as dashing Cold War heroes in popular culture: The 1952 movie "Diplomatic Courier" was described by a New York Times review as "a continental spy mystery [with] ... State Department secrets, European trains, murderers, ... Soviet agents, beautiful and unpredictable dames, military police, [and] zither music." The 1950 TV show "Passport to Danger" starred Cesar Romero (photo at right with actress Betty Furness). Romero played a diplomatic courier who each week fended off enemy agents in exotic locales as he delivered classified documents. (AP/Wide World)

From dozens to hundreds of agents: The Office of the Chief Special Agent grew from 47 special agents at the end of World War II to 124 agents and investigators in 1946, when it was for a time renamed the Division of Investigation; by 1962, there were 235 special agents. In 1952-54, during McCarthy-era background investigations, there was a temporary surge to 350 special agents and investigators, but these included 120 investigators borrowed from the Civil Service Commission.

Creating the Office of Security: In the summer of 1945, a pro-communist editor published top secret documents on U.S.-China policy in the journal *Amerasia*. An FBI investigation and congressional hearings found that many documents had been leaked by several State Department employees. Amid public controversy, Secretary of State Edward Stettinius created a State Department Security Officer.

Robert L. Bannerman's three core areas – physical security, personnel security, and overseas security: The new Security Officer position, with no staff or budget, was filled in June 1945 by Robert L. Bannerman, who had served as a special agent since 1937. He also was the son of the late Robert C. Bannerman, who had served two decades as the Chief Special Agent. The younger Bannerman left the State Department during the restructuring turmoil of 1947 to join the newly created Central Intelligence Agency, but his two-year tenure as Security Officer established many of the foundations of today's Diplomatic Security Service.

Regional Security Officer Ralph True (left) in Athens, Greece, stands watch and a Marine Security Guard looks on as Secretary of State George C. Marshall and his wife, Katherine Tupper Marshall, prepare to depart Athens in 1948. The Foreign Service Security Program, assigning regional security officers to U.S. embassies, began in 1947. (U.S. Department of State)

Borrowing a staff of seven from various State Department offices, Bannerman focused on three core areas: "documentary and physical security" for handling classified documents and safeguarding buildings; "personal security" to include full investigations of State Department applicants before employment; and security at overseas posts. Bannerman's security staff was initially separate from the office of the Chief Special Agent, but the two offices merged in the late 1940s.

Creating Field Offices: Bannerman in 1946 also created the Field Office structure that remains in use today. The New York office had existed from 1917. To assist with the monumental task of background investigations required by President Harry Truman's Loyalty Order (Executive Order 9835), Bannerman reorganized the workload and by 1947 opened field offices in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, New York, Omaha, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, Seattle, St. Louis, and St. Paul. Two more field offices – Cleveland and Greensboro – opened in 1948.

Regional Security Officers overseas: Bannerman in 1947 created the "Foreign Service Security Program," for the first time assigning security officers in key embassies, the forerunners of today's Regional Security Offices. Working with the Pentagon, Bannerman identified 26 demobilizing military officers with the language and skills for overseas embassy security duties, then personally trained them for the new positions. New security officers in Nanking, China, and Seoul, South Korea, played key roles in the evacuations of diplomatic personnel, their families, and other Americans from mainland China after the 1949 communist takeover of China and the 1950 communist invasion of South Korea.

Bombings and assassinations in Jerusalem: The UN partition of Palestine and creation of Israel in 1947-1948 foreshadowed the future of diplomatic security. The U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem was bombed in October 1947. On May 22, 1948, an unknown sniper murdered Consul General Thomas Wasson, U.S. envoy to the UN Truce Commission, as well as a Navy petty officer assigned to

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1969-1970: A Marine Security Guard staffs Guard Post One at the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia, about 1969 or 1970. U.S. Marines have secured diplomatic facilities for well over a century, but the Marine Security Guard program was formally established in the late 1940s after Congress passed laws allowing Marines to serve under Chief of Mission authority. (U.S. Department of State)

2014: A U.S. Marine stands watch in Tel Aviv, Israel, in a modern Marine Guard Post One in 2014. Today's Marine Security Guards are protected behind bullet-proof glass and able to scan closed-circuit security cameras showing dozens of views throughout the compound. The relatively open embassies of the 1950s and 1960s have given way to more secure, better protected facilities, a shift that took place in the 1970s. (U.S. Department of State)

the consulate. Another consulate officer was kidnapped in August. In September, the UN mediator – a Swedish diplomat -- was assassinated. Security measures were introduced that have become common at U.S. posts overseas. Also, 42 U.S. Marines were assigned to the consulate, a step toward establishing the Marine Security Guard program.

Marine Corps Embassy Guards partnership: Marines and soldiers have a long tradition of supporting and securing American diplomacy. The Foreign Service Act of 1946 authorized U.S. Marines to serve under the authority of an ambassador or Chief of Mission, setting the stage for a permanent cadre of Marine Corps embassy guards following decades of ad-hoc arrangements. In December 1948 a joint memorandum of understanding was signed between the U.S. Marine Corps and the State Department to create the Marine Security Guard Program. The first group of Marines trained at the Foreign Service Institute and departed for posting in Bangkok and Tangier in late January 1949. The initial group of 300 Marines had expanded by the late 1950s to 730 Marines Security Guards in 90 U.S. missions.

Korean War: Evacuating the U.S. Embassy: When communist North Korea invaded South Korea early on Sunday, June 25, 1950, the U.S. Embassy was in an eight-story hotel in downtown Seoul, its security overseen by 20 Marine Security Guards and recently arrived security officer Robert Heavey. By the following evening, as the magnitude of the surprise invasion became clear, Heavey and the Marines successfully evacuated hundreds of family members and nonessential personnel aboard ships and aircraft to Japan. Over three chaotic days before communist forces overran Seoul, U.S. Embassy staff burned vital records while enemy aircraft strafed the neighborhood. Then, as communist forces approached, a final U.S. Air Force C-54 Skymaster evacuated the remaining embassy personnel under fire, carrying more than 110 standing-room only passengers in an aircraft designed to carry no more than 50.

The crew desperately threw suitcases and weapons overboard so the dangerously overloaded plane could climb toward safety. Ambassador John Muccio, protected by a U.S. Marine, remained in Korea as the South Korean government temporarily relocated away from the fighting. He later said the U.S. Embassy evacuation was accomplished “without so much as a bloody nose” among the American staff. However, many local embassy employees were executed by communist forces or simply vanished. Seoul traded hands several times over the next months until U.S. and United Nations forces stabilized the city, which by that time lay in ruins.

While fighting still rages through Seoul, South Korea, U.S. Marine Corps Pfc. Luther Leguire raises the American flag at the American consulate in September 1950 after U.S. and UN forces regained the compound from communist troops. During the first year of the Korean War, Seoul changed hands several times and the U.S. Embassy staff accompanied the South Korean government during multiple relocations until United Nations forces secured Seoul. (U.S. Marine Corps)

Green-Lodge Report recommends expanding diplomatic security: In 1950, Senators Theodore F. Green and Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., conducted the first congressional study of diplomatic security, interviewing SY leaders and Field Office agents, and visiting overseas posts to interview Regional Security Officers. They recommended a major expansion of personnel and resources to prevent communist espionage and infiltration of overseas posts, as well as elevating the Office of Security to report to the Secretary of State. If their bipartisan recommendations had been acted upon fully, the Bureau of Diplomatic Security would have been created 35 years earlier than it was. However, State Department officials at the time considered the recommendations too costly and apparently were unaware of the willingness of the senators to sponsor additional resources.

McCarthy and McLeod: The late 1940s and 1950s were marked by an intense government-wide effort, pushed by Congress, the media, and public opinion, to ensure no communist spies or sympathizers were among federal employees. In 1950, Senator Joseph McCarthy became a household name after claiming to have by-name lists of State Department employees with communist links, spurring repeated congressional hearings and investigations. Special agents were increasingly required to conduct exhaustive background checks on the loyalty of employees. In 1953, incoming President Dwight Eisenhower issued Executive Order 10450 that required background investigations on all federal employees and outlined broad grounds for dismissal, including "infamous, dishonest, immoral, or notoriously disgraceful conduct, habitual use of intoxicants to excess, drug addiction, or sexual perversion."

Incoming Secretary of State John Foster Dulles brought in political appointee and FBI-agent-turned congressional aide R.W. Scott McLeod as Director of Security and Consular Affairs from 1953-'57 to give the appearance of "getting tough" on employee investigations. Setting the tone, McLeod prominently displayed a signed picture of McCarthy in his office and temporarily expanded the staff of agents and investigators to conduct background reviews of all 11,000 State Department personnel. He boasted of firing 16 "moral deviates" in his first ten days on the job. McLeod's tenure was polarizing (a 1954 magazine profile was titled "Big Brother in Foggy Bottom") but he did insist on all special agents and investigators having college degrees, a requirement that continues today. Special agents and investigators blanketed the State Department, and a news report said McLeod's name was "greeted with arctic silence" throughout the Department.

Effects of the McCarthy era: "The McCarthy era had a serious impact on SY and on both the public and the Department view of SY and its role," retired Special Agent Vic Dikeos said in a 1991 oral history interview. "A popular perception was that SY shared or joined in a witch hunt against colleagues in the service. SY became a highly visible organization, whereby before it had not been visible at all." Dikeos, who joined the Office of Security in the early 1950s, two decades later served as director of the Office of Security.

Another retired agent recalled "an attitude of resistance and resentment. ... In the Foreign Service and in the Department, you are dealing with highly intelligent, well-educated people who pride themselves on their independence and their ability to perform their work. And it was understandable that they would find this intrusion into their personal life distasteful."

Gays targeted: Most dismissals from the State Department were related to homosexuality, which at the time was considered a high security threat. Gays accounted for 75 percent of all security dismissals throughout the 1950s. In the early 1960s, a State Department employee hanged himself two days after being confronted by an investigator with evidence of homosexuality.

The files of unwed mothers also were scrutinized for the effect their "immorality" might have on the Department, according to McLeod.

Great Seal bugged in Moscow: In September 1952, after more than a year of growing suspicion about Soviet eavesdropping, an SY technician discovered a listening device hidden at the residence of U.S. Ambassador George Kennan in Moscow. While Kennan read aloud an unclassified document to trigger the device, Special Agent Joseph Bezjian, a technical security countermeasures specialist, used radio detection equipment to home in on the signal. He discovered a remotely powered transceiver, known as a cavity resonator, inside an elaborate wooden replica of the Great Seal of the United States that had been presented to the embassy by Soviet schoolchildren several years earlier. The listening device, informally known as "The Thing" because of its unique design, was secretly rushed back to Washington and shown to President Truman, who ordered it studied so countermeasures could be developed. Its existence was made public in 1960 when U.S. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge unveiled it to the UN Security Council to demonstrate the long Soviet history of spying amid the U-2 reconnaissance plane incident. Over the next decade, SY engineers found over 100 listening devices in U.S. embassies behind the Iron Curtain.

Director of Security John Reilly (right) in the early 1960s holds the cavity resonator listening device found a decade earlier inside a carved wooden image of the Great Seal of the United States, presented by Soviet officials to the U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union in 1948. An unidentified special agent (at left) points to where the bug was placed in the carving. Joseph Bezjian, an Office of Security technical officer discovered the bug with the aid of U.S. Ambassador George Kennan in 1952. (U.S. Department of State)

THEN&NOW

1961: Unidentified employees of U.S. Embassy Havana fold the American flag January 7, 1961, during the closing of the U.S. Embassy as part of a break in diplomatic relations between the United States and communist Cuba. Under international agreement, Switzerland became the protecting power of U.S. facilities and interests in Cuba. The United States in 1977 established an American Interests Section in Havana, formally part of the diplomatic delegation of Switzerland. (AP/Wide World)

2015: U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry watches as the Stars and Stripes is presented by the same three Marines who lowered the flag at the U.S. Embassy's closing in 1961, at the flag raising ceremony outside the newly reopened U.S. Embassy, in Havana, Cuba, on Aug. 14, 2015. The United States and Cuba reestablished diplomatic relations in July 2015. (AP/Wide World)

Private bubbles: To combat eavesdropping, acoustic conference rooms, or ACRs, were installed in U.S. embassies starting with Moscow in 1960. Commonly called "bubbles" and made of plastic and aluminum, the ACRs measured 12 by 15 feet or 12 by 20 feet and were erected in secure rooms after removal of all furniture and equipment and following a full sweep for electronic listening devices.

Cuban Missile Crisis: The tense diplomacy during 1962's Cuban Missile Crisis was made more complicated – and more dangerous – by the Department's aging World War II-era communications network. With separate White House and State Department coding systems, crucial time was lost as messages sent from the U.S. Embassy in Moscow were decoded at the State Department then recoded for transmission to the White House, where they were once again decoded. Messages were delayed six to 12 hours. As a result of the Orrick Report following the crisis, State Department cryptography was transferred to the National Security Agency, and the State Department received the most advanced computers then available as part of its new Communications Center. In 1963, a "hotline" (actually a teletype) was installed between Washington, D.C., and Moscow.

The Otepka situation: Bureaucratic political maneuvering, wiretaps, false testimony, and unauthorized leaks to Congress were all factors in the complex, controversial case of Otto Otepka. Hired in 1953 as part of the era's pro-McCarthy initiative, Otepka became deputy director of the Office of Security, in charge of evaluating security clearances, but arguably did not adapt to changing times. A confidante of hardline anti-communists in Congress, Otepka often met with friendly congressmen and reporters when he felt the dangers of communism were being downplayed. The incoming Kennedy administration sought to appoint several senior advisors that Otepka refused to approve. Unauthorized, he relayed sensitive personnel information to the Senate Subcommittee on Internal Security. SY Director John Reilly, an administration appointee, wire-tapped his phone and searched his wastebaskets. Otepka, who insisted he was upholding his duty to conduct thorough background investigations, was demoted, locked out of his office, and charged with misconduct, eventually leaving the Department. Congressional hearings took place. Reilly was forced to resign after failing to disclose his wire-tap order. Once the dust settled, historians say the scandal was important in moving the State Department beyond the McCarthy era.

1963: Special Agent William DeFossett, a former New York City police detective, became the first African-American Office of Security (SY) special agent in 1963 (shown here with Director of Security Marvin Gentile). DeFossett served with SY until 1985. (U.S. Department of State)

The first African-American special agent: Special Agent William DeFossett joined SY's New York office in 1962 and was appointed as a Diplomatic Security special agent in 1963 (a milestone noted in *Ebony* magazine). DeFossett had been a New York City police detective who assisted with dignitary visits when a State Department colleague encouraged him to apply after President Kennedy ordered all federal departments and offices to have integrated staffs. "I think I got one of the most thorough investigations of any agent who applied for the State Department," he recalled years later. He was warmly accepted by other special agents, but his new supervisor brusquely informed him: "You're not here by any choice of mine." DeFossett served more than two decades, retiring in 1985.

Discrimination against foreign diplomats: The rapid independence of nations in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, and the Middle East, in the 1950s and 1960s led to scores of ethnic minority diplomats being posted in the United States during the racially tense years of the Civil Rights movement. Washington's Metropolitan Club granted free membership to ambassadors but denied it to African and Asian diplomats, who also faced discrimination and harassment, especially on travels outside the capital. President Kennedy in 1961 approved a Special Protocol Service Section within the State Department's Protocol Office; the section worked closely with SY special agents to offer protection and tailored travel for visiting dignitaries.

Protecting dignitaries: The numbers of dignitaries visiting the United States increased dramatically in the early 1960s. President Kennedy hosted 74 official visits in 1961-62, well over twice the 32 official visits in the first two years of the Eisenhower administration. Also, decolonization led to escalating numbers of diplomats assigned to Washington and New York from newly independent nations, particularly Africa. The 10 special agents with the understaffed Protective Services Branch logged 4,000 unreimbursed overtime hours in 1962; to make up for the small SY staff, they worked closely with local police, especially the New York City Police Department during UN General Assemblies.

The Kennedy funeral: The state funeral following the November 1963 assassination of President Kennedy remains the largest gathering of foreign statesmen in U.S. history, with 220 dignitaries from 92 nations, including 19 heads of state and government. The unprecedented event also was the largest protective security operation yet undertaken by SY. More than 100 special agents flew in from field offices around the nation. SY set up a command center and coordinated closely with thousands of federal and local law enforcement.

The November 1963 state funeral for slain President John F. Kennedy drew the largest number of foreign heads of state and government to ever gather in the United States, with 220 dignitaries from 92 nations. The photo shows at least 11 State Department special agents (highlighted in red) protecting more than 45 international dignitaries (highlighted in blue). (U.S. Department of State)

THEN&NOW
DIGNITARY PROTECTION

1. **1957**, Queen Elizabeth of Great Britain (with President Eisenhower); Special Agent James McDermott left rear in felt hat
2. **1959**, Fidel Castro of Cuba; Special Agent Leo Crampsey far left in front
3. **1960**, Jawaharlal Nehru of India (far left) and India's Foreign Minister V. Krishna Menon (left center)); Special Agent James McDermott right center
4. **1960**, President Eisenhower with Vice President Nixon (lower left) and Secretary of State Herter (between Eisenhower and Nixon, with bow tie); Special Agent Frank Madden behind president, with glasses and no hat
5. **1963**, President of India, Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan; Special Agent Leo Crampsey in front passenger seat)
6. **1963**, King Mohammed Zaher of Afghanistan; with Office of Security special agents
7. **1967**, Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin (center) and Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko (right center); Special Agents Terence Shea (left, in sunglasses) and John Ford (with glasses behind Gromyko)
8. **1967**, President Philibert Tsiranana of Madagascar; Special Agents Hudgins Smith (left in dark suit and dark glasses) and William DeCourcy (right in Hawaiian shirt and dark glasses)
9. **1971**, California Governor Ronald Reagan, special envoy to Asia; Special Agents Pat O'Hanlon (center in sunglasses) and Edward Hickey (background right, behind two South Korean officials)

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U.S. Department of State: Image numbers 1, 2, 5, 7, and 8
AP/Wide World: Image number 4
Private collections: Image numbers 6 and 9

THEN&NOW

DIGNITARY PROTECTION (CONTINUED)

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10. **1989**, Princess Diana of Wales (with Peter Harris, president of F.A.O. Schwarz Co.) in New York City
11. **1990**, South African anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela at Yankee Stadium, New York City
12. **1991**, Russia's President Boris Yeltsin, Washington, D.C.
13. **1991**, Poland's President Lech Walesa, New York City
14. **2005**, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton, UN Headquarters, New York
15. **2006**, Liberia's President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Monrovia
16. **2007**, British Middle East Envoy and former Prime Minister Tony Blair, Annapolis, Maryland
17. **2010**, Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Washington, D.C.
18. **2011**, Great Britain's Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, Los Angeles
19. **2011**, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Susan E. Rice in Juba, South Sudan
20. **2011**, U.S. Senators John McCain and Joseph Lieberman, Tahrir Square, Cairo
21. **2012**, The Dalai Lama, Honolulu
22. **2014**, Governor General of Canada David Johnston, Los Angeles

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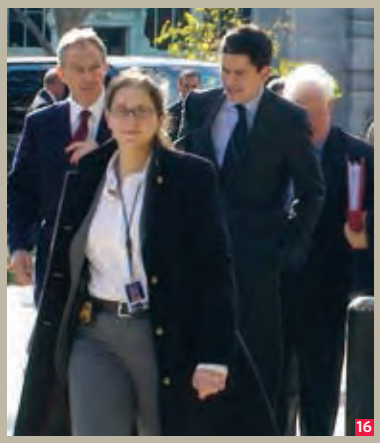
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AP/Wide World: Image numbers 10, 11, 15, 20
UCLA: Image number 22
All other photos are property of the United States Department of State

06.

1964 to 1983 – From Vietnam to the Rise of Global Terrorism

The Vietnam War affected international perceptions of the United States and ended with U.S. withdrawal and the fall of Saigon. Terrorism and threats to diplomats from the late 1960s through the 1980s transformed the State Department's Office of Security into today's Bureau of Diplomatic Security. Terrorism and increasing attacks on U.S. diplomats dramatically altered security for overseas diplomatic posts. Suicide bombings in Beirut in 1983 targeted the U.S. Embassy and U.S. Marines, killing hundreds, and led directly to the creation of the Bureau of Diplomatic Security and the Diplomatic Security Service.

WORLD EVENTS

/ 1965 /
The United States escalates ground combat in Vietnam

/ 1968 /
Tet Offensive

/ 1968 /
Assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy

/ 1968 /
Soviet-led crackdown on reform in Czechoslovakia

/ 1969 - 1972 /
Apollo moon landings

/ 1972 /
President Nixon visits China

/ 1972 /
Palestinian terrorists kidnap and kill Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics

/ 1972 - 1973 /
Arab-Israeli War

/ 1975 /
The United States withdraws from Vietnam

/ 1979 - 1981 /
Iran holds U.S. Embassy personnel hostage for 444 days

/ 1979 /
The Soviet Union invades Afghanistan

/ 1983 /
Suicide attacks on U.S. Embassy and Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon

Photo at left: Special Agent Patricia Morton

Terrorism funding reverses slow dwindling of staff: In the mid-1960s, SY had just over 300 special agents and security officers, with 245 in domestic assignments and 55 to 60 overseas. With cost-cutting through the mid-1970s, the staff by 1975 shrank to just under 200, with 139 special agents in domestic assignments and 57 overseas. However, a year later, with growing terrorist threats, 168 special agents were added to the SY staff, for a total of 364. By 1984, SY staff included 463 special agents and security officers, 312 of them in domestic positions and 151 overseas.

G. Marvin Gentile and a decade of professional standards: G. Marvin Gentile served more than a decade as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Security, from 1964 to 1974, a length of time surpassed only by Chief Special Agent Robert C. Bannerman in the 1920s and 1930s.

Gentile arrived in the immediate aftermath of the Otepka demotion, with a mandate to get SY out of the newspapers. He is credited with revitalizing SY morale, helping to raise the stature of the Office of Security within the State Department, setting law-enforcement standards, and strengthening a sense of professionalism in SY. He also began the transition to a greater emphasis on counterterrorism and protecting against attacks on U.S. diplomats. He instituted regular firearms qualifications and health exams (in one of the first such checkups, a special agent resisted the medical screening and had to be ordered to go, which ended up prolonging his life because, as one of the era's heavy smokers, his x-ray screening revealed early stages of lung cancer).

Gentile inherited workforce cultures divided between stateside Civil Service agents and overseas Foreign Service specialists, making rotations difficult to manage. As openings arose with the retirement of domestic agents hired in the 1940s, he emphasized replacing Civil Service positions with Foreign Service specialists, allowing overseas staff to spend time at headquarters and vice versa.

Gentile also restructured the field offices scattered around the country, which in many instances consisted of a single agent supported by an administrative assistant. He geographically consolidated them into centralized field offices supervised by a special agent in charge, who also supervised smaller resident offices in smaller nearby cities. This freed up administrative positions that could be transferred to SY headquarters in Washington.

Bugs and Seabees: Acting on a tip from a Soviet defector in 1964, technical security officers in Moscow discovered 52 hidden microphones in the U.S. Embassy, mostly behind radiators, and they traced the wires to a nearby apartment building. A similar inspection in Warsaw, Poland, found 54 bugs hidden in the U.S. Embassy. Members of a U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion, or CBs, commonly known as Seabees, were called into Warsaw and Moscow to clean up damage caused by the removal of the microphone network. Diplomatic Security officials recognized the in-depth expertise of the military construction engineers and requested a permanent group of Seabees to supervise sensitive diplomatic construction projects. Some Seabees were deployed for specific classified construction projects while others (initially 27) were assigned to regional technical centers in Frankfurt, Beirut, Panama, and Tokyo. The Seabee program was made permanent in 1968.

THEN&NOW

1965: A uniformed security guard (top) was stationed at the main entrance to the U.S. Department of State headquarters (the 21st Street entrance) in Washington, D.C., in 1965 to check employee identification passes. In 1949, the State Department implemented a photo ID card system, and employees had to present the card whenever they entered the building. Visitors to the Department would receive a temporary ID with restrictions on hours and areas of the building they could visit. (U.S. Department of State)

2015: Uniformed security guards (above and right) keep watch at the current main entrance to the Harry S Truman Building (now the C Street entrance) as well as conduct canine patrols at a vehicle entrance in 2015. The Diplomatic Security Service today employs approximately 950 uniformed officers to protect dozens of State Department facilities around the United States. (U.S. Department of State)

Size 13 shoes: In 1969, Lou Grob, security officer at the U.S. Embassy in Bucharest, Romania, detected an electronic signal from an eavesdropping device during a classified meeting in the embassy's "bubble," an acoustic conference room designed to thwart outside listening. A full sweep of the room eventually ended literally at the feet of Deputy Chief of Mission Harry G. Barnes, Jr., who wore unusually large shoes, size 13. Investigators determined that a maid had taken the shoes to be repaired at a local shop; the large heel was hollowed out and an electronic microphone was inserted. New shoes were ordered for Barnes, and SY officers learned to cover their plastic "bubbles" with an extra layer of household aluminum foil wrap to thwart low-powered devices that might have been smuggled inside.

Vietnam: The United States escalated its military commitment in South Vietnam beginning in 1965, and as many as five security officers served at a time at the U.S. Embassy in Saigon. The posts were always filled with volunteers, often junior agents seeking their first opportunity for an overseas assignment. For approximately a decade, U.S. ambassadors to South Vietnam were guarded by a protective security unit of about seven plainclothes Marines overseen by the SY security officer.

On March 30, 1965, a car bomb exploded outside the U.S. Embassy in Saigon, killing two Americans, a Filipino, and 19 Vietnamese, injuring 183, and demolishing much of the Embassy. Congress appropriated $1 million to build a new more secure embassy.

Embassy Compound Breeched in Tet Offensive: In January 1968 during the lunar New Year (or "Tet") holiday, communist North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces launched a coordinated attack across South Vietnam. The offensive included a pre-dawn attack on the new U.S. Embassy in Saigon. Approximately 19 Viet Cong blew a hole in the embassy wall, entered the compound, and engaged Marines and embassy personnel in a firefight but never reached the locked chancery. A Marine and four U.S. Army Military Police were killed. Two special agents joined the fight to retake control of the compound. Shortly after daybreak, 18 attackers had been killed and one was wounded. The U.S. and South Vietnamese militaries halted the Tet Offensive, but heavy casualties and the breeching of the embassy compound helped weaken U.S. public support for the war.

1968: Special Agent Leo Crampsey, Regional Security Officer for the U.S. Embassy in Saigon, South Vietnam, meets with U.S. Marines shortly after repelling an enemy surprise attack during the Tet Offensive. On January 31, 1968, at the height of the Vietnam War, the U.S. Embassy in Saigon was the scene of a pre-dawn surprise attack. Some 19 Viet Cong breached the embassy compound perimeter walls and attempted to force their way into the chancery. The Marine Security Guard detachment and others onsite halted the attack; four U.S. Army Military Police and a U.S. Marine were killed. Crampsey grabbed a weapon and joined in the pitched battle alongside the military personnel. (Private Collection)

THEN&NOW

1968: The Great Seal of the United States, originally mounted at the entrance to the U.S. Embassy in Saigon, South Vietnam, was heavily damaged by enemy fire during the January 1968 Tet Offensive when Viet Cong fighters breeched the embassy walls. State Department special agents fought alongside Marine Security Guards and other military personnel to halt the attack. Five American service members lost their lives defending the embassy. (U.S. Department of State)

2013: The Great Seal of the United States at the U.S. Consulate in Herat, Afghanistan, was damaged when a large truck bomb detonated September 13, 2013, at the start of a multi-pronged attack that lasted 30 minutes until the attack was defeated by Diplomatic Security Service personnel. Eight local guards lost their lives defending the consulate. (U.S. Department of State)

Closing the Saigon Embassy: By late 1974, security officers had the difficult position of planning for the possibility of a safe evacuation while political and diplomatic forces were strenuously focused on preventing such an evacuation. When the U.S. military presence in Vietnam was curtailed in 1973, the Regional Security Office in Saigon expanded to fill the security vacuum, with 55 vehicles, a local guard force of 1,800, and a company of 186 U.S. Marines.

State Department special agents were among the final American officials to depart when the United States evacuated from South Vietnam in April 1975. In the final months, planning and coordination by special agents helped an estimated 50,000 Vietnamese reach safety before the fall of Saigon.

'Urban Guerilla Warfare' and Attacks on U.S. Embassies: Anti-American protesters began targeting U.S. embassies and diplomats in the mid-1960s through the 1970s, a time when the numbers of U.S. posts overseas were rapidly expanding. The SY office responded with new procedures for checking incoming mail, new protective equipment, and making facilities safer with such measures as shatter-proof glass. The growing threats challenged long-held attitudes among American diplomats, who often stated they could not perform their mission if accompanied by protective details or visible security measures.

During the June 1967 Six-Day War, mobs attacked 22 U.S. embassies and consulates in Arab nations, with damage ranging from broken windows to gutted buildings. Anti-Vietnam protests and riots took place throughout Europe. Violence ranged from rock throwing to dynamite to car bombs. In Beirut in 1972, attackers hid in a parked car across the street from the U.S. Embassy and fired rocket-propelled grenades through holes cut in the vehicle's body panels.

The phrase "terrorism" was not in everyday usage at the time, and SY special agents often used the term "urban guerilla warfare" to describe the ongoing security threats.

Assassination of Ambassador Mein in Guatemala: In August 1968, Marxists in Guatemala shot and killed U.S. Ambassador John Gordon Mein when he refused to cooperate in a kidnap attempt after his car was blocked in city traffic. He became the first American ambassador to be killed in the line of

The 1968 assassination of U.S. Ambassador to Guatemala John Gordon Mein was the first time a serving U.S. ambassador had been killed in the line of duty. He was slain by leftist guerrillas on the streets of Guatemala City. The killing led the Office of Security to begin a pilot project for armoring cars for U.S. ambassadors overseas. (U.S. Department of State)

duty. Two U.S. military officers assigned to the Embassy had been assassinated earlier that year. Following Mein's murder, SY began a pilot program for Navy Seabees and technical security officers to install armor plating and bullet-proof glass on ambassadors' vehicles.

Ambassador Elbrick Kidnapped in Brazil: In September 1969, Marxist student guerillas in Brazil kidnapped U.S. Ambassador C. Burke Elbrick and held him for more than three days until the Nixon administration requested that the Brazilian government meet the kidnappers' demands by releasing 15 jailed communists. The United States at the time had no firm policy on whether, or how, to negotiate with terrorists. In 1970, Dan Mitrione, the USAID chief public safety advisor in Uruguay, was kidnapped by a guerrilla group convinced he was a CIA torture advisor and demanding the release of 150 prisoners held by the government. Communication broke down, and after 10 days Mitrione was executed.

As a result of these and other incidents, SY began extensively upgrading physical security at facilities.

Secretary of State Rogers Attacked in Tokyo: In July 1969, Secretary of State William Rogers narrowly escaped injury when a Japanese man lunged toward him with a knife at the Tokyo airport. SY Special Agent Joseph McNulty knocked the attacker to the ground within five feet of Secretary Rogers. Afterward, the Secretary of State's protective detail was expanded to 24-hour coverage, with four to five special agents plus an overnight Marine guard.

THEN&NOW

1973: The first diplomatic couriers return to Beijing in April 1973 following a 23-year hiatus in U.S. diplomatic presence in China. They flew pouches in through Islamabad for the newly opened U.S. Interests Section in Beijing as part of U.S. rapprochement with the Peoples Republic of China. (U.S. Department of State)

2014: Two days before President Barack Obama's announcement on normalization of relations with Cuba, diplomatic couriers on December 15, 2014, delivered a record number of pouches to the U.S. Interests Section in Havana. Diplomatic couriers were at the Miami airport to securely load the diplomatic pouches en route to Havana. (U.S. Department of State)

Nixon transfers head-of-state protection to Secret Service: An unruly protest in Chicago resulted in SY losing its decades-long tradition of protecting visiting heads of state. In February 1970, France's President Georges Pompidou undertook a three-day U.S. visit shortly after a controversial sale of French warplanes to Libya. Nearly 100 members of Congress planned to boycott Pompidou's speech. In Chicago, demonstrators surrounded the French president and his first lady, and one demonstrator spit on Madame Pompidou. President Pompidou threated to leave the United States immediately. President Nixon assured him that if he stayed he would have full Secret Service protection for the rest of his visit. Nixon then pushed on new legislation that would give the Secret Service responsibility for protecting all future heads-of-state visits. The Secret Service unsuccessfully fought to have SY remain in charge of foreign visits, but Nixon's initiative was adopted into law. The issue was exacerbated when former National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger became Secretary of State in 1973 and refused to give up his Secret Service detail, resulting in SY guarding his wife but not the Secretary. However, Kissinger also advocated SY protection for growing diplomatic initiatives, such as delegations from the Middle East and Eastern Europe. The protection situation reversed when President Carter took office in 1977. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance approved an SY detail providing 24-hour protection.

"Ping-Pong" diplomacy: A milestone in rebuilding SY's reputation took place in 1972 after the Secret Service was unable to fulfill a White House request to provide protection during a U.S. visit by China's 70-member table-tennis team during the Nixon administration's crucial reopening of China. SY stepped in and organized security throughout the team's extensive U.S. tour. SY also protected other sports and cultural ambassadors from China and Eastern Europe.

Patti Morton, first female agent: With growing pressure to hire more women in the federal workforce, in April 1972 the State Department's Special Assistant for Women's Affairs urged a reluctant SY to recruit Patricia "Patti" Morton to be the first female special agent. Legislation had recently passed allowing women to carry firearms in Washington, D.C., taking away a final gender barrier for federal agents. Morton already had served as a Foreign Service Staff Officer in Nepal, Zaire, South Africa, and Singapore, and had distinguished herself by contributing to investigations.

Morton's hiring was met with mixed reactions. All special agents assigned to the Washington Field Office were expected to serve on protective details. Morton's name was regularly submitted but only men were selected. One day, a supervisor sent the list using only last names. Special Agent Morton was ordered to report for duty at 5 p.m. "When I appeared," she later recalled, "... the team leader said, 'What are you doing here?' I said, 'I'm assigned to the detail.' They said, 'Oh no you're not.' They looked at the list, saw the last name Morton, and realized it was me instead of someone else. They went into a long, lengthy pow-wow and eventually said, 'I guess we can let you go along. You can watch the ladies room.'"

In 1974, when Secretary Kissinger insisted on only Secret Service protection for himself, recently hired SY Special Agent Mary McAteer was assigned to his wife's protection detail.

In early 1974, Morton became the first female special agent assigned to a Regional Security Office, joining the large SY staff in Vietnam as an assistant supervisory Regional Security Officer. Some males expressed concern about her ability to supervise the embassy's large Marine Corps contingent. The Marine leaders welcomed her, she later recalled. "Their comment was, 'We know you are capable, or you wouldn't have been sent here. You don't have to prove anything to us.'" Her Vietnamese counterparts also were impressed by her abilities on the firing range and invited her to join a local marksmanship competition team.

1972: The first female diplomatic security special agent, Patricia Morton, joined the State Department's Office of Security in 1972. After brief periods with the Washington and Boston Field Offices, she was assigned as one of four Regional Security Officers in Saigon, and later served as Regional Security Officer in The Hague. (U.S. Department of State)

1985

2014

Terror in Munich and Protecting U.S. Athletes: At the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, members of the Palestinian terror group Black September kidnapped and killed 11 Israeli athletes and a German police officer. The terror attack led the Nixon administration to create a cabinet-level Committee to Combat Terrorism (members included the SY director) and a policy of not negotiating with terrorists. The State Department was assigned responsibility for creating an interagency Office for Combating Terrorism. In 1985 the Office became the Coordinator for Counterterrorism. In 2012 it became the Bureau of Counterterrorism.

Beginning with the 1976 Olympic Games, SY special agents were responsible for providing security for U.S. athletes at the Olympics and other international sports events.

Kidnappings and Murder of Diplomats: American diplomats increasingly were targeted in the mid-1970s.

In January 1973, U.S. Ambassador to Haiti Clinton E. Knox was kidnapped and held by gunmen demanding the release of Haitian prisoners. Haiti's dictator, Jean Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier, negotiated for Knox's release. In May 1973, Terrence Leonhardy, Consul General in Guadalajara, Mexico, was kidnapped and held for four days by a revolutionary group until the Mexican government met the group's demands.

In March 1973 in Khartoum, Sudan, eight members of the Palestinian group Black September kidnapped incoming and outgoing U.S. Ambassadors George Curtis Moore and Cleo Noel, Jr. They demanded a prisoner exchange. After President Nixon said he would not be "giving in to blackmail demands," both ambassadors were shot and killed.

In August 1974, U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus Rodger Davies was shot and killed during an anti-American demonstration outside the U.S. Embassy in Nicosia. In 1975 in Cordoba, Argentina, John Patrick Egan held the honorary title of U.S. consular agent and was kidnapped and murdered by leftist Peronists who claimed he represented "Yankee interests."

In June 1976 in Beirut, incoming Ambassador to Lebanon Francis E. Meloy was on his way to present his credentials to the Lebanese president when he was shot and killed by terrorists along with Economic Counselor Robert O. Waring and their driver.

THEN&NOW

1985: A special agent instructor with the Mobile Training Team (center) teaches a hammer fist protective maneuver to a U.S. Embassy Kuwait staff member (right) in 1985. Mobile Training Teams were developed following suicide attacks in Beirut so that traveling teams of special agents could provide basic security training to embassy staff in high-threat locations. (U.S. Department of State)

2014: Local guard supervisors at the U.S. Embassy in Baku, Azerbaijan, in 2014 take part in "train-the-trainer" sessions for certification as qualified instructors. The training was conducted by the embassy's Regional Security Office and certified 16 local guard supervisors to be instructors for the embassy's local guard force. (U.S. Department of State)

A New Focus on Terrorism: In 1974, Deputy Assistant Secretary Gentile retired after a decade and was succeeded by Vic Dikeos, the first time a special agent had been director of SY. Building on Gentile's reforms, Dikeos continued shifting the focus of SY to counterterrorism, dignitary protection, and technology (counter-espionage and computer security). These moves redefined SY, replacing the Bannerman-era focus on background investigations, protection, and overseas security. The changes in 1975-1976 nearly doubled the Diplomatic Security staff in just one year, from 196 to 364 personnel.

Weather Underground bombs State Department: Terrorism was not only international. In January 1975, a bomb planted by the Weather Underground Organization, a U.S. extremist group, destroyed or damaged 20 offices on three floors of the Harry S Truman Building, the State Department's main headquarters. No injuries were reported, but one of the damaged offices belonged to the chief of the SY Division of Investigations.

Mobile Training Teams: To train Department personnel at overseas posts, SY developed Mobile Training Teams in 1975. A team consisted of two special agents who visited posts and conducted two to five days of training for all post personnel. The training included defensive driving, bomb-threat response, residential security, personnel security, and first aid. By mid-1976, teams had visited 107 posts and trained over 9,000 employees. In 1977, the Foreign Service Institute inaugurated mandatory three-day SY-led security briefings for all persons being assigned overseas.

DS Command Center and the Bicentennial: With the high number of dignitaries visiting Washington, D.C., for the 1976 Bicentennial, the Office of Security created the new Command Center running round the clock seven days a week. An informal coordination desk had existed since 1966 (literally a single desk to coordinate the Secretary's protection detail), but the Command Center was staffed by 10 watch officers on rotating 8-hour shifts, working hand-in-hand with a newly created Threat Analysis Group, a cohort of analysts who maintained global awareness via news reports, cables, and ongoing contact with overseas posts. The Command Center's lasting impact rested in part on SY's unique decades-long relationships with local police forces across the United States and around the world.

THEN&NOW

1976: The Security Office Command Center is manned by a watch officer Richard Sartain. Created in 1976 to support U.S. Bicentennial events in Washington, D.C., the Command Center replaced the desk and telephone previously used to coordinate protective details. The Command Center and its Threat Analysis Group (TAG) could track threats operating across international boundaries, as well as provide a 24-hour monitoring center for posts overseas and the protective details of the secretary of state and visiting foreign dignitaries. By 1980, TAG had seven analysts studying and tracking terrorist and other threats to U.S. diplomats and became one of the leading authorities on terrorism within the U.S. Government. (U.S. Department of State)

2014: Special agents monitor world events and overseas security from inside the Diplomatic Security Command Center in April 2014. The Command Center today is a 24/7/365 facility with the ability to electronically monitor all U.S. diplomatic facilities around the globe. (U.S. Department of State)

1979: Funeral services are held in February 1979 at Arlington National Cemetery outside Washington, D.C., for Ambassador Adolph "Spike" Dubs, U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan, who was kidnapped and murdered by terrorists in Kabul. At the time Afghanistan had a pro-Soviet government, and the murder strained U.S. relations with the Soviet Union. (U.S. Department of State)

SY special agents save former Turkish prime minister: In June 1976, former Turkish Prime Minister Bulen Ecevit was scheduled to speak at New York's Waldorf Astoria Hotel. About 400 demonstrators gathered and began throwing eggs and tomatoes. Special Agent Bernard Johnson ordered a "tight shield" around Ecevit, then noticed a man with a pistol in the crowd. He dived at the gunman. Special Agent George Mitchell moved in front of Ecevit to protect him as he was hurried to safety. The State Department awarded Johnson and Mitchell the Award for Heroism; another special agent on the detail, Horace Mitchell, received the State Department Award for Valor.

Soviet tunnel under Moscow Embassy: In June 1978, Technical Security Officers John Bainbridge and Jim Frank discovered a dish antenna hidden inside a chimney at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow; a cable from the antenna ran through a secret tunnel, large enough for a person to crawl through, which led to a nearby Soviet apartment building. The listening post was in active use, and a Navy Seabee surprised a Soviet technician trying to crawl through. Americans bricked up the tunnel.

In 1984, SY special agents in Russia discovered electronic bugs inside 16 of the Embassy's electric typewriters. The devices were able to record and transmit keystrokes. Afterward, President Ronald Reagan approved replacing more than 20,000 pounds of embassy communication and office equipment.

Ambassador Dubs murdered in Afghanistan: In February 1979, Afghanistan had a pro-Soviet government, and the murder of U.S. Ambassador Adolph "Spike" Dubs strained U.S.-Soviet relations. On February 14, four Afghans stopped Ambassador Dubs' car. He was kidnapped and held at the Kabul Hotel, with Afghan police surrounding the scene accompanied by Soviet advisors. U.S. Embassy staff members were kept at a distance and, against U.S. recommendations, Afghan police stormed the room where Dubs was held. Following an intense gun battle, Dubs was discovered shot dead.

THEN&NOW

1978: Technical Security Office John Bainbridge crawls out from a chimney at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow in June 1978. Bainbridge and a fellow security officer discovered an apparent listening post that involved a chimney antenna and underground tunnel. Its purpose was not immediately clear, but several years later electronic bugs were discovered inside embassy typewriters and may have been linked to the chimney antenna. (U.S. Department of State)

2011: A DSS security engineering officer checks radiation-monitoring equipment on the roof of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo in April 2011 following the earthquake, tsunami, and Fukushima Dai-Ichi nuclear power plant explosion in Japan. DSS also rushed members of a DS Weapons of Mass Destruction team to Japan to scan personnel and vehicles for radiation exposure and to provide information for post personnel. (U.S. Department of State)

Iran Hostage Crisis: The Iranian hostage crisis that began in November 1979 was preceded earlier that year by an attack that hinted at the looming threats.

On February 14, 1979, the same day Ambassador Spike Dubs was murdered in Afghanistan, an unrelated attack took place at the U.S. Embassy in Teheran, Iran, when approximately 75 militants climbed over walls and stormed through embassy buildings for several hours. Ambassador William Sullivan ordered Marines to fire tear gas to slow the attackers until the Iranian interim government repelled the attackers. Marine Sergeant Kenneth Kraus was abducted, tortured, and sentenced to death in a 10-minute "trial," but Sullivan and President Carter secured his release after six days.

On November 4, 1979, Iranian student militants stormed the embassy and took more than 60 Americans hostage; 13 hostages were released that month, another hostage was released seven months later due to illness, and the remaining 52 Americans were held a total of 444 days, until President Ronald Reagan's Inauguration Day in January 1981.

Inspired by events in Iran, Pakistani demonstrators on November 21, 1979, stormed the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad. Cpl. Steven J. Crowley, a Marine Security Guard, was fatally wounded. While 1,000 rioters ransacked and burned the premises, U.S. diplomats secured themselves in the safe haven vault until Pakistani security forces regained control six hours later.

Similar mob uprisings targeted the U.S. embassies in Tripoli, Libya, and Beirut, Lebanon.

The attacks led to the Security Enhancement Program, which emphasized physical security at high-threat posts, including $42 million in congressional funding, refined procedures to protect against mob attacks, more authority granted to Regional Security Officers, and clarification that the Chief of Mission was responsible for all emergency decisions at a diplomatic post.

Office of Foreign Missions: The Foreign Missions Act of 1982 established the Office of Foreign Missions (OFM) to ensure that conditions and treatment of U.S. diplomats abroad are fair and based on reciprocity, and to ensure that benefits,

privileges, and immunities of foreign diplomats are implemented in the United States. The Office of Foreign Missions originally was part of SY. When the Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS) created in 1985, the Office of Foreign Missions became part of DS. In 2014, OFM began reporting directly to the State Department's Under Secretary for Management on the recommendation of the Accountability Review Board for Benghazi.

Beirut suicide bombings: Turning point for Diplomatic Security: A series of suicide bombings in Beirut, Lebanon, led to a comprehensive review of overseas security and the creation of the Diplomatic Security Service.

In April 1983, a suicide bomber detonated a vehicle bomb containing 2,000 pounds of explosives inside the U.S. Embassy compound in Beirut, killing 63 people (including 32 Lebanese employees, 17 Americans, and 14 visitors or passersby), injuring 100, and collapsing a section of the eight-floor building.

A suicide attack of such magnitude was unprecedented. The Threat Analysis Group at SY's Command Post soon sent a cable to high-threat posts warning of an emerging "martyrdom complex" in the region. Enhanced security measures were identified for 64 posts.

Marine Barracks bombing: In October 1983, a suicide truck bomber crashed through the gates of a command center and barracks used by international peacekeeping forces in Beirut. The explosion killed 241 U.S. Marines and 58 French paratroopers, left a 30-foot crater, and destroyed two buildings. The devastation led to a nationwide and global discussion on responses to terrorism.

Kuwait bombing: In December 1983 in Kuwait, terrorists drove a dump truck filled with explosives through the gate of the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait City. No Americans were injured, but the blast destroyed the U.S. Consulate building and heavily damaged the chancery.

Four days after the Kuwait City attack, the State Department ordered its embassies to erect barricades and take further measures to prevent truck bomb explosions.

Background image: U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz (at microphone) is surrounded by special agents, local security and, at far left, U.S. military personnel, after the April 1983 suicide bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon, that killed 63 people. (AP/Wide World)

07.

1984 to 1999 - Creating the Diplomatic Security Service: SY Transforms to DSS

The unprecedented rise of terrorism and attacks against American diplomats in the 1970s and early 1980s led directly to the creation of the Bureau of Diplomatic Security and the Diplomatic Security Service. The end of the Cold War reshaped U.S. diplomacy, evolving from a predominantly bipolar world to more complex relations that emphasized multilateral cooperation and support for emerging democracies, taking diplomats into increasingly high-risk situations.

WORLD EVENTS

/ 1985 /
Mikhail Gorbachev named General Secretary of Soviet Communist Party

/ 1986 /
Marine Security Guard in Moscow confesses to espionage

/ 1988 /
Pan Am Flight 103 bombed over Lockerbie, Scotland

/ 1989 /
China cracks down on democracy movement in Tiananmen Square

/ 1989 /
Berlin Wall opens

/ 1991 /
Persian Gulf War

/ 1991 /
Soviet Union votes itself out of existence

/ 1992 - 1994 /
U.S. and UN intervention in Somalia

/ 1990 - 1992 /
Breakup of Yugoslavia

/ 1992 - 1995 /
Bosnian War

/ 1993 /
World Trade Center parking garage bomb

/ 1994 /
South Africa elects a multiracial government, ending Apartheid

/ 1994 /
Rwandan Genocide

/ 1995 /
Tokyo subway sarin gas attack

/ 1995 /
Dayton Agreement ends Bosnian war; U.S. and NATO peacekeepers deployed

/ 1996 /
Khobar Towers bombed in Saudi Arabia

/ 1998 /
East Africa Embassy bombings

/ 1999 /
Kosovo war

Photo at left: President Ronald Reagan signing the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986

PERSONNEL AND RESOURCES TO CONFRONT TERRORISM: THE OFFICE OF SECURITY HAD APPROXIMATELY 500 PERSONNEL IN 1984. WITH THE CREATION OF THE BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY, THE STAFF GREW TO 629 PERSONNEL TWO YEARS LATER (399 DOMESTIC AND 230 OVERSEAS) WITH A PLAN TO EXPAND TO MORE THAN 1,150 PERSONNEL OVER THE NEXT DECADE. WITH THE 1984 ACT TO COMBAT TERRORISM, SY'S BUDGET QUADRUPLED FROM $27 MILLION IN 1982 TO $110 MILLION IN 1984. AFTER THE CREATION OF THE BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY, DS FUNDING ROSE TO MORE THAN $300 MILLION PER YEAR IN THE LATE 1980S BEFORE FALLING AGAIN.

U.S. Admiral (Retired) Bobby R. Inman. A former director of the National Security Agency, Inman headed a 1984-85 panel to examine security at the U.S. Department of State. Inman Panel recommendations included the creation of the Diplomatic Security Service and the Bureau of Diplomatic Security. (AP/Wide World)

INMAN PANEL: In response to more than 300 terrorist attacks between 1979 and 1983, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in the summer of 1984 formed the Advisory Panel on Overseas Security, made up of distinguished government and private leaders, chaired by retired Admiral Bobby Inman. The Inman Panel conducted a comprehensive study of overseas security and recommended a fundamental reorganization of Diplomatic Security and significant upgrades and redesign of overseas diplomatic buildings. The panel also recommended creating a new organizational entity to manage the consolidated security efforts: a new State Department Bureau headed by an Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security.

BEIRUT EMBASSY BOMBED AGAIN: In Lebanon, the majority of embassy offices were relocated to an annex in East Beirut believed to be safer than the embassy compound in the western part of the city. However, in September 1984, a suicide van bomber sped toward the annex entrance. Embassy guards shot the driver ten meters from the entrance. The vehicle struck a parked van and detonated, ripping off the front of the embassy annex and killing 21 Lebanese employees, and two American military personnel. U.S. Ambassador Reginald Bartholomew was injured, as was Special Agent Alan Bigler, the embassy Regional Security Officer. The British ambassador also was injured.

THEN&NOW

1984: Emergency Response Team special agents ride aboard a Navy Sea Stallion helicopter en route to Larnaca, Cyprus, in September 1984. The agents had just spent ten days investigating the U.S. Embassy Beirut bombing in Lebanon. (Private Collection)

2014: Members of the U.S. Embassy Tripoli staff, the Marine security team, and DSS special agents prepare to depart Tunisia in July 2014 aboard a U.S. Air Force C-17 aircraft after temporarily shuttering the U.S. Embassy in neighboring Libya earlier that day. The personnel convoyed overland from Libya to Tunisia as part of the departure. (U.S. Department of State)

1984 Act to Combat Terrorism: With escalating attacks on Americans overseas, Congress passed the 1984 Act to Combat Terrorism, quadrupling the SY budget from $27 million in 1982 to $110 million in 1984.

Antiterrorism Assistance Program: The Act to Combat Terrorism, passed in November 1983, also authorized the establishment of the Antiterrorism Assistance Program. The law noted that program activities would be designed "(1) to enhance the antiterrorism skills of friendly countries ... (2) to strengthen the bilateral ties of the United States with friendly governments ... and (3) to increase respect for human rights by sharing with foreign civil authorities modern, humane, and effective antiterrorism techniques."

Initially met with skepticism and suspicion that the United States was training foreign "death squads," the program over time demonstrated its adherence to internationally accepted police training. By 1985, training exchanges and programs had been conducted with 15 nations, including Portugal, Costa Rica, Turkey, Italy, Thailand, Tunisia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Cameroon, and Liberia.

Rewards for Justice: Rewards for Information on International Terrorism (later known as Rewards for Justice) was formally launched in 1984, beginning an aggressive, global reward campaign for people who come forward with credible information that prevents acts of terrorism or helps apprehend terrorists.

OSAC: Public-private partnership for overseas security: In February 1985 Secretary of State Shultz announced the creation of the Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC), a public-private partnership to promote security cooperation between the State Department and U.S. nongovernment entities operating overseas, which often were affected by terrorism and instability. OSAC would include members of the State Department, U.S. law enforcement agencies, and U.S. corporations, academic institutions, and faith-based organizations with overseas presences.

Inman Report recommends DS Bureau and DSS: In June 1985, the Inman Panel released its recommendations, the most significant of which was the creation of a new Bureau of Diplomatic Security. The report further said that the "principal element of the new bureau should be the Diplomatic Security Service," a consolidation of the existing Office of Security, the Diplomatic Courier Service, and other security functions performed by the State Department.

In prophetic words, the Inman Report summarized the growing threats for Diplomatic Security to address: "What we have seen in recent years is an expansion of the threat from physical violence against diplomats — often private, incidental, even furtive — to the beginnings of calculated terror campaigns, psychological conflict waged by nation or sub-group against nation, with an ever-broadening range of targets, weapons, and tactics."

Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS): Accepting Inman's recommendations, Secretary of State Shultz ordered the immediate reorganization of State Department security programs.

The Department established the Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS) on November 4, 1985, and began reorganizing staff and transferring programs and staff to the new entity. Career Foreign Service Officer Robert Lamb led the new DS Bureau. In 1987, he was confirmed by Congress as the first Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security, a newly created position.

Diplomatic Security Service (DSS): In 1985, under the recommendation of the Inman Report, SY Director David C. Fields became the first director of the newly established Diplomatic Security Service (DSS). He also served as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security. The 1986 Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act (see page 70), required that the DSS director be a non-political appointee with federal law-enforcement experience, preferably including service abroad. The act states that the DSS Director "should be a career member of the Senior Foreign Service or the Senior Executive Service and shall be qualified for the position by virtue of demonstrated ability in the areas of security, law enforcement, management, and public administration."

The Inman Report said that the "principal element" of the new DS Bureau would be an expanded Diplomatic Security Service, and the State Department created the DSS alongside the new DS Bureau. "The new Diplomatic Security Service," the Inman Report said, "must incorporate the best features and attributes of professional law enforcement in order that it will become capable of providing the level of competence that will be required in United States diplomatic and consular missions around the world in the face of the expected terrorist threat environment."

The Inman Report recommended 1,156 officers, including special agents, couriers, and security engineers, be assigned to DSS, more than doubling the size of the force. The position of the new DSS Director also served as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Diplomatic Security.

THEN&NOW

1987: Secretary of State George P. Shultz (left) speaks with George Murphy of Mobil Oil Corp. during a December 1987 reception for the Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC). Secretary Schultz announced the creation of OSAC two years earlier as a public-private partnership to promote security cooperation between the State Department and the U.S. private sector operating overseas. (Overseas Security Advisory Council)

2015: Secretary of State John Kerry addresses the 30th anniversary annual briefing of the Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) in November 2015. Administered by the Diplomatic Security Service, OSAC has 14,000 representatives from U.S. businesses, academic institutions, faith-based institutions, and non-governmental organizations. It supports 142 Country Councils worldwide that communicate with U.S. embassy Regional Security Offices on a spectrum of regional threats, ranging from terrorist threats to intellectual property theft. (U.S. Department of State)

1986: President Ronald Reagan presides over a commemorative ceremony in the White House marking the August 1986 signing of the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986. The law provided DS and DSS with a formal structure and placed the Rewards for Justice program and the Diplomatic Courier Service within DSS. (White House)

President Reagan signs Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act: In August 1986, President Reagan signed into law widely supported omnibus legislation that gave congressional approval for the Inman Report findings and provided formal authorization for the new Bureau of Diplomatic Security and the Diplomatic Security Service. Reagan noted, "We can never legislate an end to terrorism. However, we must remain resolute in our commitment to confront this criminal behavior in every way – diplomatically, economically, legally, and when necessary, militarily."

New law-enforcement powers: In addition to the 1986 Diplomatic Security omnibus legislation, Congress, as part of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, granted full criminal investigative authority to DS special agents, including the power to arrest suspects and execute search warrants.

Marine Espionage in Moscow: In late 1986, Marine Sergeant Clayton Lonetree, a Marine Security Guard who had recently transferred from Moscow to Vienna, Austria, confessed to providing Soviet KGB intelligence with classified documents from both embassies. He apparently had been seduced by a female KGB agent in Moscow and blackmailed into turning over sensitive documents. Up until his confession, Lonetree had been considered a top-performing Marine. He was convicted of espionage and sentenced to 15 years in prison.

The incident, which included allegations of another Marine involved in security breaches, drew intense scrutiny by Congress of the Marine Security Guard program (a *Time* magazine cover story showed a Marine with a black eye and the headline "Spy Scandals"). However, the newly created DS Bureau firmly supported the partnership and completed a renewed memorandum of agreement with the Marine Corps, viewed as a vote of confidence.

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1986: On February 11, 1986 the regional security officer in East Berlin (left with striped necktie) looks on as formerly imprisoned Soviet dissident Anatoly "Natan" Sharansky (center bottom) is greeted by U.S. Ambassador to West Germany Richard Burt (right). Sharansky crossed from East Berlin at the Glienicke Bridge, site of historic Cold War spy and prisoner exchanges. (AP/Wide World)

2012: Blind Chinese dissident and civil rights activist Chen Guangcheng (left) walks with U.S. Ambassador to China Gary Locke (center rear) and Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Kurt Campbell (right front) in Beijing in May 2012. A DSS special agent (upper right with white shirt) was assigned to protect Chen, who fled house arrest and sought refuge in the U.S. Embassy, eventually being granted a U.S. visa. (U.S. Department of State)

Lockerbie Bombings: Two DS special agents were among the 270 people killed in the terrorist bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland in December 1988. Special Agent Daniel O'Connor had been assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Cyprus, and Special Agent Ronald Lariviere had been assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Beirut. A Libyan terrorist was later convicted of the bombing by a United Kingdom court.

The Cold War Ends: The collapse of communism in Eastern Europe and the demise of the Cold War in 1989 - 1990 led to wide euphoria followed by "peace dividend" cuts in security budgets and manpower (though DS had been established to address terrorism, not Cold War security).

In fact, the opening of borders and decline of authoritarian regimes increased the number of protective details, both in attending high-profile summits as well as in potentially dangerous locations throughout the 1990s as the United States engaged in frontline diplomacy following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, in Somalia, during the Rwandan genocide, and during the wars accompanying the breakup of the former Yugoslavia.

1990: DSS special agents protect South African anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela during a New York City ticker-tape parade in June 1990. Mandela rode in an armored booth atop a retrofitted blue truck dubbed the "Mandela Mobile," which was quickly customized and armored for the occasion by DSS. The future president of South Africa visited the United States just four months after being released from 27 years in prison. More than 100 special agents and four aircraft protected Mandela on his visits to New York, Washington, D.C., Chicago, and California, one of the largest protective details in DSS history. (Private Collection)

Hiring freeze and funding cuts: With post-Cold War budget cuts, DS stopped hiring new agents in 1990 and did not resume until 1997. The DS Bureau lost 285 special agent and Civil Service positions between 1992 and 1996. The budget was cut by $186 million in 1993 and by another $156 million in 1996.

Protecting Mandela: In June 1990, Nelson Mandela, the anti-Apartheid leader and future president of South Africa, paid a triumphal U.S. visit four months after being released from 27 years in prison. His visit, with stops in New York, Washington, Chicago, and California, was preceded by numerous death threats. DS deployed one of its largest protective details to date, with 100 special agents and four aircraft. Mandela was honored in a ticker-tape parade in New York City, waving from atop a customized armored truck dubbed the "Mandela Mobile."

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In addition to protecting dignitaries, DSS special agents also provide security for American athletes overseas and, some cases, foreign athletes visiting the United States. Coordination and consultation for athlete protection began in the 1970s. Today, DSS provides a full range of security support for international sporting events, to include protection of athletes, sponsors, and spectators. (Source: U.S. Department of State)

Stepping up athlete protection: DS special agents started providing security for American athletes overseas in the 1970s, but the efforts increased notably in the 1990s. DS special agents provided pre-travel security briefings for the athletes attending the 1991 Pan Am Games in Cuba, and afterward developed a more formal program for supporting international sporting events. This included assigning a DS Olympics coordinator well in advance of the 1992 games in Barcelona. For the 1996 games in Atlanta, DS provided dignitary protection and protection for the Israeli athletes. As a result of the domestic terrorist bombing in Atlanta, DS made the Olympics coordinator position permanent, began extensive advance work for the 2000 games in Sydney, and has protected American athletes while aiding the protection of sponsors and spectators at every Olympics ever since.

Vancouver 2010: Special agents discuss security arrangements inside Thunderbird Arena in Vancouver, British Columbia, site of the 2010 Winter Olympic Games.

Sao Paulo 2014: The DSS special agent in charge of the protection detail for the U.S. World Cup Soccer Team provides security support for Team USA as team members arrive for training in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Salt Lake City 2002: Just five months after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, DSS special agents coordinate security at the 2002 Salt Lake Olympic Winter Games.

Sochi 2014: Two DSS special agents discuss security at one of the mountain venues at the XXII Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia, in 2014.

World Trade Center bombing: In February 1993, a vehicle bomb exploded in a parking garage of the World Trade Center in New York, killing six and injuring 1,000, an early sign that terrorism was growing into a transnational threat. The New York City Police Department and the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force immediately called on DSS for support during the investigation. Working with the interagency team, DSS quickly helped to identify Middle Eastern radicals responsible for the attack. FBI and New York City police arrested most of the terrorists, but Ramzi Yousef, driver of the explosives-filled rental van, escaped.

As part of the Rewards for Justice program, the State Department offered a $2 million reward for information leading to Yousef's arrest.

In early February 1995, a man tipped off U.S. diplomats in Pakistan claiming to have information about Yousef's location. DSS special agents confirmed the information. On February 7, a team of Pakistani law enforcement officers, accompanied by DSS Special Agents Bill Miller and Jeff Riner, entered Yousef's living area, woke him from a nap, and arrested him. His room contained airline schedules and bomb components. The next day, Pakistani authorities turned Yousef over to FBI agents, who flew him to New York for arraignment. He received two life sentences (one for the World Trade Center bombing, another for planting a bomb aboard a Philippines Airlines plane in 1994). The informant was paid a $2 million reward.

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1995: Ramzi Yousef, a main perpetrator of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, is apprehended by local law enforcement and DSS special agents who stormed into in his room in a guest house in Pakistan in 1995, following a tip-off to the U.S. Embassy. (U.S. Department of State)

2013: FBI Top Ten Fugitive Eric Toth (left) waits in handcuffs to be extradited to the United States on child pornography charges as a DSS special agent with the Regional Security Office in Managua (wearing "U.S. Agent" jacket) confers with Nicaraguan authorities in 2013. RSO Managua provided vital information that led to Toth's apprehension. (U.S. Department of State)

Al-Khobar Towers: In June 1996, a truck bomb destroyed the Al-Khobar Towers in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, killing 19 U.S. military personnel and injuring more than 500 people of numerous nationalities. Al-Khobar Towers housed military personnel and was not a State Department facility, but DSS immediately sent 18 special agents to the region to survey State Department facilities in case more attacks were planned. Over the next several months, numerous upgrades were completed in the Persian Gulf and former Soviet Union, including perimeter barriers, extra guards, and additional training for U.S. diplomats.

The Al-Khobar Towers attack resulted in a reversal of the decline in Diplomatic Security resources. Congress authorized additional funding and personnel.

East Africa Embassy bombings: In August 1998, Al-Qa'ida terrorists conducted simultaneous truck bombings of U.S. Embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The explosions killed 224 people, including 12 Americans, and injured 5,000 others. Secretary Madeleine Albright described the attacks as "my worst day as Secretary of State."

DSS immediately sent 41 special agents, four security engineering officers, and 41 Navy Seabees to the two embassies to assist local staff and begin investigating the attacks. DS also increased security at other posts that could be targeted by Al-Qa'ida.

Congress authorized additional funding, allowing DSS to hire 200 new special agents, 34 technical security specialists, and 20 new couriers, increasing the overall bureau staff to more than 1,000 (though still not reaching the manpower goal set by the Inman Panel the previous decade.

THEN&NOW

1993: U.S. Navy Seabees begin reconstructing a building on the U.S. Embassy compound in Mogadishu, Somalia in early 1993 as part of the U.S.-led international effort to create a protected environment for conducting humanitarian operations in the southern half of the war-ravaged country.

2013: A U.S. Navy Seabee and a Regional Security Technician perform maintenance on closed-circuit security cameras at the U.S. Embassy in Rome in 2013. Approximately 120 U.S. Navy Seabees are assigned to the State Department's Naval Support Unit, providing hands-on technical security support in sensitive or classified areas of diplomatic facilities. (U.S. Department of State)

More clout for RSOs: Secretary Albright also approved a request allowing Regional Security Officers at each embassy to report directly to their ambassadors or deputy Chiefs of Mission. Previously, Regional Security Officers (RSOs) reported through the administrative officer. The change elevated RSOs to being security advisors for embassy leadership.

The Crowe Commission: As specified by the Inman Report, President Clinton appointed Accountability Review Boards for each of the two embassy attacks, both chaired by Admiral William Crowe. The review boards found "a collective failure" at all levels of government for not devoting enough emphasis or resources to security.

Boards members, Crowe said, were most disturbed by two interconnected issues: "First, the inadequacy of resources to provide protective measures against terrorist attacks; and second, the relative low priority accorded security concerns throughout the U.S. government by the Congress, the Department, other agencies in general, and the part of many employees."

Congress approved $1.4 billion to improve Diplomatic Security and build safer embassies.

A new focus on security: The East Africa bombings affected attitudes throughout the State Department. "I think some of the swagger around here has disappeared," a senior Foreign Service Officer told *The New York Times* a year after the attacks. "Once you treated the threat of terrorism as the price of being a diplomat. You didn't demand resources for embassy security. Now you do."

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1988: During specialized DSS training for U.S. ambassadors, Ambassador-designate to Czechoslovakia Shirley Temple Black (lower right corner) takes part in an airborne scenario in 1988. DSS prepares all State Department personnel for overseas security and provides security training for those assigned domestically. (U.S. Department of State)

2014: During a High Threat Operations Course in 2014, DSS special agents practice securing a helicopter landing site in the event embassy staff need to be swiftly evacuated. The ten-week course also prepares agents for a wide range of security situations affecting diplomacy in high-threat locations. (U.S. Department of State)

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1986: A DSS security officer (above) monitors for radio signals from unauthorized sources at a Department of State facility. These monitoring systems were the last generation of vacuum-tube receivers used by DSS technicians. (U.S. Department of State)

2013: During training at the Foreign Service Institute, a security engineering officer (SEO) student (left) practices drilling a locked safe in 2103. SEO students learn about pin-tumbler locks and the distinctions between ordinary and high security pin-cylinder locks, as well as practicing master-keying procedures and the implementation of key management procedures and policies. (U.S. Department of State)

08.

2000s and Beyond – Frontlines of Diplomacy

Terror attacks, militant extremism, and U.S. responses to security threats dominated the first decade of the new millennium. Following Al-Qa'ida's September 11, 2001, attacks on the U.S. homeland, Diplomatic Security supported frontline diplomacy, particularly in the wake of U.S. military operations. The State Department proactively adopted a mindset of expeditionary diplomacy in some of the globe's most dangerous environments.

WORLD EVENTS

/ 2000 /
USS Cole bombed in Yemen

/ 2001 /
Al-Qaeda destroys World Trade Center, strikes the Pentagon

/ 2001 /
U.S. invades Afghanistan, removes Taliban from power

/ 2002 /
Bali terrorist bombings

/ 2003 - 2011 /
United States invades Iraq, removes Saddam Hussein from power

/ 2004 /
Madrid train bombings

/ 2004 /
Southeast Asian Tsunami

/ 2005 /
Suicide bombings in Central London

/ 2007 - 2008 /
Global economic crisis

/ 2011 /
Arab Spring uprisings in Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya

/ 2011 /
U.S. and NATO airstrikes against Libya

/ 2011 /
United States kills terror leader Osama bin Laden

/ 2011 /
Syria civil war begins

/ 2012 /
U.S. compounds attacked in Benghazi, Libya

/ 2013 /
Terror attacks in Boston and Nairobi

/ 2014 - 2016 /
Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant kills western hostages, attacks Western targets

Photo at left: A DSS special agent taking part in high-threat training (2013)

USS Cole: A suicide attack on the Navy ship USS Cole in October 2000 in Yemen killed 17 American sailors and opened the curtain on a decade defined by terror attacks.

9/11: On September 11, 2001, suicide terrorists with the Afghanistan-based Al-Qa'ida group hijacked four U.S. airliners; the first two were flown into and destroyed each of the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City; the third was flown into the southwest side of the Pentagon near Washington, D.C.; and the fourth was heading toward Washington, D.C., when it crashed in rural Pennsylvania as passengers attempted to overpower the suicide pilots. The attacks killed 2,977 victims and resulted in a massive U.S. and world response.

The Bush administration's declaration of a Global War on Terror accelerated the Bureau of Diplomatic Security's proactive expansion while placing nearly all of the U.S. government and citizenry on heightened awareness of terrorism. DSS expanded its role in criminal investigations and expanded its focus on antiterrorism assistance, terrorism, surveillance detection, mobile security deployments, and intelligence and threat analysis. DSS increased its involvement in identifying and arresting suspected terrorists.

Back to Afghanistan: In December 2001, less than three months after the 9/11 attacks, U.S.-supported Afghan opposition forces had deposed the extremist Taliban regime in Afghanistan that had provided safe harbor for Al-Qa'ida. Members of DSS's Mobile Security Deployments were among the first State Department personnel to enter Kabul after the Taliban fled. The U.S. Embassy had been vacant for 12 years. DSS special agents found dusty, cobwebbed furnishings, untouched since the 1989 departure of previous embassy officers. The U.S. diplomatic mission formally reopened two weeks after DSS arrived.

Protecting diplomacy in Iraq: The U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003 deposed the Saddam Hussein regime and was followed by a massive deployment of diplomatic personnel to help Iraqis establish a new government. U.S. diplomatic relations, which had been severed during the 1991 Gulf War, were reestablished, and the new U.S. Embassy staff soon included more than 1,000 personnel from a dozen U.S. government agencies. Scores of DSS special agents and specialists protected this vital diplomatic initiative, augmented by U.S. Marines, other military members, and local staff.

Rewards for Justice and Saddam's sons: In the summer of 2003, only 19 days after the Rewards for Justice program advertised a reward for information leading to the capture of either of Saddam Hussein's sons, Uday and Qusay, an informant tipped off U.S. troops in Iraq. Both men were located in Mosul, attempted to evade capture, and were killed in a three-hour battle. U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell approved the program's largest reward at the time to the informant.

Matchbook covers of the Rewards for Justice program, including one for Osama bin Laden. The matchbooks, printed in multiple languages, are placed in local stores that sell cigarettes, thereby reaching segments of the population unlikely to see posters in a U.S. embassy or diplomatic facility. (U.S. Department of State)

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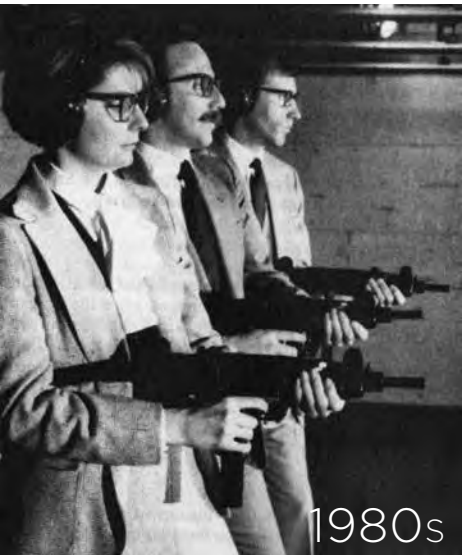
1980s: Special agents handle Uzi automatic submachine guns on a firing range in the early 1980s. The comparable weapon for today's special agents is the Colt 9mm SMG. (U.S. Department of State)

2014: A special agent with a DSS Mobile Security Deployments team rappels down a training tower used by the Fire Department of New York City (FDNY) in 2014 as part of a four-day fire-survival course led by FDNY firefighters. (U.S. Department of State)



THEN&NOW

2000: Cyber security specialists staff the DSS Office of Computer Security's Network Monitoring Center in Beltsville, Maryland, circa 2000. Established in 1999 during concerns about the Y2K computer bug, the center today operates around the clock with state-of-the-art cyber security technology to detect and respond to threats to State Department networks. (U.S. Department of State)

2013: Special agents with the DSS Computer Investigations and Forensics Lab demonstrate law enforcement analysis of seized computer drives, cell phones, and other digital devices in 2013. (U.S. Department of State)

The Diplomatic Security Memorial, dedicated in 2015, is located in the lobby of DSS headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. The memorial honors all who lost their lives in the line of duty while in service to the Bureau of Diplomatic Security. The names include host-nation security personnel, employees of DSS, military personnel assigned to or supporting DSS, and contracted security personnel. (U.S. Department of State)

A Libyan man walks in the destroyed facility a day after the September 11, 2012, attack on the U.S. Special Mission in Benghazi, Libya. (AP/Wide World)

Fallen in the line of duty: The diplomatic mission in Iraq claimed the lives of two DSS special agents. Special Agent Ed Seitz died in Baghdad in October 2004 in a mortar attack on a U.S. compound. Special Agent Stephen Sullivan died in Mosul, Iraq, in September 2005 when his motorcade was hit by a vehicle-borne explosive device.

Throughout the decade, more than 70 DSS personnel, predominantly local guard force members, were killed while protecting U.S. embassies and diplomats.

Security training for high-threat assignments: In 2007, DSS launched its Foreign Affairs Counter Threat (FACT) security awareness training to help U.S. government personnel and eligible family members develop personal security skills for serving in high-threat overseas assignments.

Benghazi attack: In September 2012, terrorists attacked the U.S. compound in Benghazi, Libya, killing four U.S. personnel, including U.S. Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens. DSS underwent intense congressional scrutiny and wide public debate over the appropriate levels of security for diplomats in high-threat locations.

High-Threat Programs: Following lessons learned from the Benghazi attack, DSS in 2013 created the new High-Threat Programs Directorate to oversee security at the most critical high-threat posts throughout the world. High-threat training became the norm for DSS special agents. DSS Mobile Security Deployments teams began assisting the Bureau's protective services by responding immediately with tactical support in hot spots around the world.

1,000 more Marines: In 2013, the National Defense Authorization Act authorized 1,000 additional Marine Security Guards to buttress not only the physical protection of classified information but, as a higher priority, the safety of diplomatic personnel. The Marine Corps created a Marine Security Augmentation Unit to provide swift response to any looming threat.

Cyber Security Center: In 2013, DS opened its Foreign Affairs Cybersecurity Center, a state-of-the-art cyber operations facility that maintains a 24/7 watch to detect cyber threats to the State Department and the U.S. foreign affairs community.

DSS special agents and security protective specialists drill together during high-threat training in 2013. (U.S. Department of State)

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry meets Marine Security Guards at U.S. Embassy Baghdad in March 2013. (AP/Wide World)

09.

The next 100 years

40,000 professionals in more than 170 nations: As the 100th anniversary of the Diplomatic Security Service approached, DSS had grown exponentially from the handful of special agents during World War I to a global force with thousands of professionals.

DS is present in
275 foreign missions in more than
170 countries and in
31 DS Field and Resident Offices
in the United States.

AMONG DS PERSONNEL ARE MORE THAN 2,000 SPECIAL AGENTS, **220** SECURITY ENGINEERING OFFICERS, **160** SECURITY TECHNICAL SPECIALISTS, **100** DIPLOMATIC COURIERS, **120** NAVY SEABEES, **1,000** UNIFORMED PROTECTIVE OFFICERS/GUARDS, **37,000** FOREIGN NATIONAL GUARDS AND SURVEILLANCE DETECTION PERSONNEL, AND **850** CIVIL SERVANTS.

Diplomatic couriers each year travel **60,000** to **70,000 hours** by sea, road, air, and rail, transporting more than **8.5 million pounds** of classified and sensitive materials.

Since its inception in the early 1980s, the **DS Antiterrorism Assistance program** has trained more than 100,000 civilian law-enforcement personnel from 154 countries.

Over the decades DSS has built solid working relationships with **foreign and international law enforcement agencies** that enable effective criminal investigation partnerships worldwide.

DSS investigators each year conduct more than **30,000 background security clearance investigations** for U.S. government employees.

Special agents protect the Secretary of State 24 hours a day, seven days a week, typically traveling hundreds of thousands of miles each year. Special agents also protect hundreds of foreign dignitaries visiting the United States.

Each fall at the annual **UN General Assembly**, DSS protects dozens of foreign ministers and other diplomats in New York City, an intensive operation involving hundreds of special agents augmented by hundreds more federal and local law enforcement members.

Since its inception in 1984, the **Rewards for Justice** program has **paid over $125 million** to more than 80 persons who provided credible information on those who have attacked or targeted Americans.

DSS special agents serve alongside other U.S. government agencies that **monitor terrorist and other threat activities** to prevent violent acts against Americans and American interests.

The **Overseas Security Advisory Council** partners with 14,000 private- and public-sector representatives to share information and ideas on a wide spectrum of security threats.

DSS trains thousands of U.S. government employees and qualified family members each year to heighten awareness of security at they prepare to represent the United States around the globe.

DSS is a world leader in international investigations, threat analysis, cyber security, counterterrorism, and security technology. The **protection of people, property, and information** is its top priority.

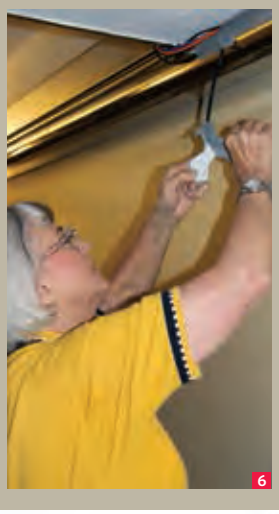
DSS Countermeasures experts, including **Security Engineering Officers** and **Security Technical Specialists**, help safeguard State Department facilities worldwide; they provide security and defensive equipment to protect U.S. government personnel and property from acts of violence and classified information from hostile intelligence eavesdropping.

THEN&NOW

A GLOBAL FORCE FOR A GLOBAL MISSION

1. **2015,** Special Agent, United Nations, New York
2. **2015,** Special Agent with British security counterpart, Washington, D.C.
3. **2014,** Special Agents with Secretary of State John Kerry, Paris
4. **2011,** Special Agents, Washington, D.C.
5. **2014,** Science and Engineering (STEM) Festival, Washington, D.C.
6. **2015,** Security Technical Specialist, United Nations, New York
7. **2013,** Special Agents, United Nations, New York
8. **2011,** Special agent with British royal family, Los Angeles
9. **2015,** Special Agent, Nairobi
10. **2008,** Diplomatic Courier, over Cairo
11. **2010,** Special Agent, Kandahar
12. **2010,** Special Agent with USAID delegation, near Kabul
13. **2015,** Special Agent, Nairobi

5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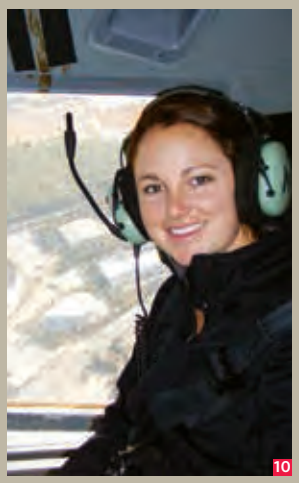
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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

THE BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY

http://www.DiplomaticSecurity.State.gov

HISTORY OF THE BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY

http://www.state.gov/m/ds/about/history/index.htm

DIPLOMATIC SECURITY MEMORIAL

http://www.state.gov/m/ds/memorial/index.htm

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S ADVISORY PANEL ON OVERSEAS SECURITY (INMAN REPORT) – JUNE 1985

http://1997-2001.state.gov/www/publications/1985inman_report/inman1.html

https://www.facebook.com/diplomaticsecurity

July 26, 2014: A Diplomatic Security Service technical specialist walks across the tarmac late at night at U.S. Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy, after a long day's journey driving across the desert and mountains, then flying across the Mediterranean Sea. Approximately 70 embassy staff assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli, Libya, as well as 85 U.S. Marines, were part of a temporary staff relocation that went into motion before dawn that day, following weeks of escalating battles between rival militias in the Libyan capital. (U.S. Department of State)

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United States Department of State
Bureau of Diplomatic Security
Office of Public Affairs
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