



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY

AGENT PROFILE



Elizabeth "Beth" Trites

I was interested in foreign policy, public service, other cultures, and languages. I thought law enforcement and diplomacy were a unique combination, and I was attracted to the challenge of working in both disciplines. Diplomatic Security has allowed me to do just that.

As an investigator, I led a criminal investigation that resulted in the seizure of a quarter million dollars that was intended to bribe a State Department official.

Serving on the Secretary of State's protective detail was both a challenge and an awesome responsibility. I traveled to 47 countries and had a front-row seat to history-making events such as the Geneva and Reykjavik Summits and Easter Mass a few feet from the Pope in St. Peter's Square.

My current assignment leading the Washington, DC, Field Office, where I began my career 20 years ago, is an enormous honor. The safety, welfare, and professional development of nearly 100 special agents are my highest priorities.

Diversity is one of the greatest strengths of Diplomatic Security. Everyone brings their own special talents, knowledge, and experiences to the table, and we use it all to accomplish our mission. Diplomatic Security operates as a team, and all of our agents, engineers, and specialists together comprise a formidable global force.

There are challenging and varied opportunities for women to serve and advance in DS. The first Regional Security Officer to return to the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan—which was closed for 13 years—was a woman.



AGENT PROFILE



Wendy Bashnan

Diplomatic Security lured me with international travel, living abroad, and the promise of a career with the U.S. State Department.

After only two years with Diplomatic Security, I was assigned to the American Embassy in Cairo, Egypt. This assignment offered me a tremendous opportunity to learn all facets of security in an overseas environment. I was fortunate to have a mentor who made sure that I acquired the skills necessary to manage an embassy's security. Two years later, I was managing the security office for our embassy in Georgetown, Guyana.

My assignment to Cairo was my favorite. Seeing the pyramids for the first time and learning to scuba dive in the Red Sea were experiences I probably never would have had.

There have been many exciting assignments, such as protecting the Israeli team during the Atlanta Olympics.

Others have been particularly memorable: serving in a war-torn, famine-stricken country, running a 9-month sting operation. The sting operation was well worth it. We arrested and convicted a Foreign Service officer and his two associates for visa fraud and seized \$2.3 million in assets.

My current assignment as a supervisory special agent satisfies my appetite for travel and enables me to work with new agents on protective details.

I've been a DS special agent for 11 years now. I love my job today, equally, if not more, than the first day I received my credentials.

For women who choose Diplomatic Security as a career, there are no limits to how far you can go.

A GLOBAL FORCE