

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY

DIPLOMATIC SECURITY PROTECTS



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A GLOBAL FORCE

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DIPLOMATIC SECURITY **PROTECTS**

The Bureau of Diplomatic Security is the security and law enforcement arm of the U.S. Department of State.

Our mission is to create a secure environment for the conduct of American diplomacy by protecting people, property, and information. We are a global force 34,000 strong, and protection is central to our mission.

A GLOBAL FORCE



DS Protects People

Diplomatic Security provides protection to visiting foreign dignitaries during approximately 140 visits to the United States each year. Our special agents provide continuous security for the U.S. Secretary of State and the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. Diplomatic Security also protects visiting cabinet-level foreign dignitaries, foreign ministers, and former heads of state who visit the United States. We provide this security throughout the year and at special events, such as presidential State funerals and the annual United Nations General

Assembly in New York City. Some noteworthy dignitaries we have protected include Great Britain's Prince Charles, former leader of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev, and the Dalai Lama. The security we provide to visiting dignitaries is based on the level of threat they face in the United States.

We provide protection in some of the most dangerous countries in the world—including Iraq, Afghanistan, and Yemen. Diplomatic Security provides security for U.S. ambassadors and embassy staff, and



in a few cases, for foreign leaders in their own countries. We have provided security for Afghanistan's President and Haiti's interim prime minister.

Diplomatic Security also has played a key protective role in all Olympic Games since 1984. During Olympics held in the United States, we provided security to visiting foreign dignitaries. In overseas Games, Diplomatic Security works with the host country and U.S. law enforcement agencies to ensure the U.S. Olympic family experiences a safe Olympics. During the 2004 Athens Olympics, Diplomatic Security served as the U.S.

Government's security coordinator and imbedded special agents into some of the U.S. athletic teams.

Diplomatic Security works with other law enforcement agencies, including the Uniformed Division of the U.S. Secret Service, to provide security for foreign embassies, consulates, and other missions in the United States. We consult regularly with foreign mission officials on issues such as personal security, emergency action plans, physical security standards, crime prevention, and surveillance recognition.

DS Protects Property

American embassies overseas are a frequent target of terrorists, criminals, and spies. To protect our employees, the Department of State has invested millions of dollars to enhance security measures at nearly every U.S. embassy and diplomatic mission abroad in the aftermath of the tragic bombings of the U.S. embassies in Africa in 1998.

Each U.S. mission has an extensive security program, developed and overseen by a regional security officer who is the senior Diplomatic Security agent

at the mission. Each officer is thoroughly familiar with the host country—its politics, economy, culture, society, and history. The officer establishes contacts with the host government’s security services, police, and other credible sources of information.

Under the direction of a regional security officer, U.S. Marine Security Guards secure the interior of a majority of U.S. embassies. They ensure that the personnel, classified material, and government property at our diplomatic missions remain safe and secure—



especially in times of crisis. Marine Security Guards have protected embassies during riots, terrorist strikes, and other emergencies. In the event of an attack, Marine Security Guards delay the aggressors long enough to help safeguard the lives of diplomatic personnel and to destroy classified information. During some crises, they help evacuate Americans living in the region.

Marine Security Guards control access within U.S. missions, conduct inspections to ensure that classified information is secure, and monitor surveillance devices, fire alarms, and communications systems.

A force of 32,000 local guards protects the perimeters of our overseas buildings. The guards, managed by a regional security officer, patrol the grounds, and inspect vehicles, visitors, and packages. The guards also respond to alarms and requests for assistance. Specially trained local guards personally protect many U.S. ambassadors and other personnel as necessary. Local guards are usually citizens of the host nation.

In the United States, more than 750 uniformed officers protect about 100 Department of State buildings

and locations. They patrol the facilities, screen visitors and packages, and monitor communications and security systems through a state-of-the-art Security Control Center. From the center, which operates around the clock, officers can detect intrusions, control access, and dispatch guards to emergency situations. When an emergency occurs, they are often first on the scene, taking control of the situation and, when necessary, providing first aid or calling for assistance.

Specially trained bomb-sniffing dogs help protect our domestic employees. With security officers, the

dogs patrol our buildings and check vehicles at loading docks. As part of the protection that Diplomatic Security provides to foreign dignitaries, security officers with dogs frequently inspect hotels and other sites for explosives.

DS Protects Information

Although hostile intelligence groups regularly try to spy on Department of State buildings worldwide, Diplomatic Security has sophisticated technical security programs to thwart them. Security engineering officers design,

Department employees and sensitive information from espionage attempts. Security technical specialists work with the engineers to install and maintain explosives detectors, metal detectors, closed-circuit television cameras, emergency alert systems, electromagnetic door locks, vehicle barriers, and other special equipment.

Classified documents also receive special protections. When the State Department sends classified documents or government equipment to its overseas missions, the material could be vulnerable to those who might try to



install, and manage technical equipment and computer systems that are sophisticated—and effective.

Some high-tech instruments can find hidden “bugging” devices. With other tools, the engineers can determine if anyone is using electronic equipment to conduct surveillance against us. Engineers also develop, install, and maintain state-of-the-art systems to keep out intruders and protect against physical attacks.

Technical specialists and U.S. Navy Seabees help engineers fortify our U.S. missions. Seabees construct buildings, rooms, and locks that shield State

access the materials, plant surveillance devices, or otherwise compromise it. Diplomatic couriers travel with all classified and sensitive material sent between U.S. missions and the U.S. Government to ensure its security, whether it is a diplomatic pouch containing papers and files, or heavy equipment and construction materials.

Diplomatic couriers also protect sensitive material by escorting it within the United States and across international borders. **Every year, couriers ensure the secure delivery of more than 10 million pounds of material, including classified pouches.**

The cyber security of the State Department's classified and sensitive information is a top priority, and Diplomatic Security aggressively defends it. Computer security specialists continually monitor classified and unclassified information systems. They develop strict security measures to prevent cyber-based attacks and high technology crimes.

Diplomatic Security conducts 25,000 background investigations each year on employees who have access to classified and sensitive information, and on Department



of State job applicants. We train employees to properly handle, store, and destroy classified and sensitive information. If the State Department suspects an information security violation, Diplomatic Security, along with other U.S. Government agencies, conducts an investigation.

At Diplomatic Security, it is our job to protect American diplomats overseas, foreign dignitaries in our country, State Department buildings, and the classified information that is essential to conducting U.S. diplomacy.

For more information, visit us at

www.diplomaticsecurity.state.gov

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