

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY

# DIPLOMATIC SECURITY FIGHTS TERRORISM



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“AMERICA DOES NOT AND WILL NOT COWER  
BEFORE TERRORISM. WE ARE GOING TO  
FORGE ON, WE’RE GOING TO STEP UP, WE’RE  
GOING TO CONTINUE TO DO THE WORK  
THAT WE DO TO TRY TO IMPROVE THE  
LIVES OF OTHER PEOPLE.”

— U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry  
Ciragan Palace, Istanbul, Turkey, April 7, 2013



A DS Regional Security Officer (second from left) examines the wreckage of a car bomb after a terrorist attack on U.S. Consulate General Peshawar in Pakistan.

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## Introduction

U.S. diplomats were some of the first American victims of terrorism. Decades before terrorism reached our shores, U.S. diplomats were vulnerable to the ravages of terrorism as they served America around the world.

The Bureau of Diplomatic Security was created to protect the people, property, and information of U.S. embassies and consulates worldwide. Today, Diplomatic Security special agents and security specialists are assigned to more than 285 U.S. embassies and consulates in 189 countries and to 26 field offices and 27 Joint Terrorism Task Forces throughout the United States.

As the most widely represented federal law enforcement agency overseas, Diplomatic Security is uniquely positioned to form partnerships with law-enforcement and security



*A DS Antiterrorism Assistance firearms instructor (left) distributes ammunition for training purposes to members of Afghanistan's Presidential Protective Service in Kabul.*

officials throughout the world. Working with our partners, we have successfully identified, arrested, and prosecuted terrorists before they reached the United States.

Our worldwide network of security professionals—more than 38,000 strong—is highly trained and experienced in conducting international investigations, threat analysis, and law-enforcement training programs. Diplomatic Security's strong and innovative security programs help prevent terrorist and criminal attacks so that U.S. diplomats can carry out America's foreign policy safely and securely.

- Diplomatic Security trains foreign police and security officers from partner countries how to fight terrorism effectively within their own borders, before it reaches the United States.
- We pay rewards for information that prevents terrorist attacks and brings wanted terrorists to justice.
- We assist the American private sector with security issues overseas by sharing information on crime and terrorism, as well as the political and economic issues that impact security in a particular country or region.
- Diplomatic Security special agents investigate passport and visa fraud and other criminal acts committed in conjunction with these crimes—often the link to identifying and stopping terrorists.
- Our intelligence analysts research and monitor terrorist activities, trends, and threats against U.S. diplomatic personnel and other Americans overseas.

## Foreign Government Antiterrorism Training

One way Diplomatic Security fights international terrorism is by strengthening the skills of security officials around the world. Diplomatic Security's Antiterrorism Assistance (ATA) program builds the counterterrorism capacity of America's partners and supports their resolve to confront and defeat terrorism.

The ATA program is the preeminent provider of antiterrorism training to expand the skills and abilities of civilian law-enforcement personnel from governments friendly to the United States. Since its inception, this program has trained and assisted more than 95,000 foreign security and law-enforcement personnel from 154 countries.

Most program participants are from developing nations that lack resources needed to maintain an effective counterterrorism program. Our training addresses deficiencies in their ability to protect national borders and critical infrastructure, as well as respond to, manage, and resolve terrorist incidents.

Diplomatic Security officers work with the countries' governments to tailor the training to their needs. Using our own training experts, as well as those from other law-enforcement agencies, police associations, and private security firms, we develop coursework and provide the training.

Many courses have been developed during the program's 30-year history, including bomb detection and disposal, crime scene investigation, hostage negotiation, airport and building security, maritime protection and VIP protection. Recent program initiatives include a VIP protection training program in Iraq, in response to Iraqi security services' urgent need to develop the capability to protect Iraqi officials as well as foreign diplomats and missions. Under this initiative, vetted and trained members of the Iraqi Federal Police protect Iraqi government officials and are assigned to assist in foreign dignitary protection, including motorcade security for U.S. Embassy Baghdad.

ATA training and assistance has saved lives in Pakistan, not only of civilians targeted by terrorist bombs, but also



*Kenyan police practice hostage rescue techniques at an ATA training exercise.*

of those who must respond to terrorist threats. Since receiving ATA-sponsored bomb disposal courses and equipment in 2009, provincial police technicians have rendered safe thousands of improvised explosive devices, rockets, grenades, and remote-controlled devices without loss of life.

ATA also provided senior Indian police officials with training consultations in hotel security and response to active shooting incidents in the aftermath of the 2008 terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India. It expanded its training programs in Afghanistan to include not only a presidential protective detail, but also national security units that protect other senior government leaders and at-risk government facilities. In Indonesia, ATA trained and equipped an elite counterterrorism task force that has tracked down hundreds of terrorists and thwarted a planned leadership assassination attempt.

Officials in these countries and others have used their new skills to deter and prevent terrorist attacks, rescue American hostages, dismantle terrorist cells, and investigate and arrest terrorist operatives and leaders. Successes abound from these efforts. American citizens kidnapped in Colombia, the Philippines, and Turkey have been rescued or released after negotiations by trained officers. When heavily armed Taliban insurgents attacked a tribal peace conference hosted by the Afghan government in 2010, members of ATA-trained protective units repelled the attackers and ensured the safety of all the dignitaries. ATA students in Kenya joined with the Kenyan Navy in taking suspected pirates into custody in that country's coastal waters.



*Terrorist attack on the Taj Mahal Palace hotel in Mumbai, India, that claimed several hundred casualties during a 60-hour rampage in 2008.*

To obtain maximum results from its finite resources, ATA personnel are constantly updating training materials and curriculum, developing new programs, and providing support for ATA's activities throughout the world, including keeping track of specialized counterterrorism equipment.

### **Rewards for Information on Terrorists**

Another weapon in the war on terrorism is the Rewards for Justice program, administered by Diplomatic Security. Through this program, the U.S. Secretary of State offers rewards up to \$25 million for information that helps capture terrorists or prevents acts of international terrorism against U.S. persons or property worldwide.

One of the Rewards for Justice program's notable success stories occurred as the result of information provided by a source in Pakistan. Diplomatic Security agents located international terrorist Ramzi Yousef, convicted for the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center, and were instrumental in his arrest. In 2004, another informant was paid \$30 million for providing information that led to the location of Saddam Hussein's sons, Uday and Qusay Hussein. Rewards for Justice has a long track record of success. Since the program began in 1984, the United States has paid more than \$125 million to more than 80 persons who provided information that brought terrorists to justice or prevented terrorist acts against Americans around the world.

Rewards for Justice campaigns are advertised internationally with posters, matchbook covers, newspaper, radio, and television ads; through social media, and in 28 languages on its website at [www.rewardsforjustice.net](http://www.rewardsforjustice.net).

### **Exchanging Information with the U.S. Private Sector**

Over the last decade, terrorists, criminals, and other anti-U.S. actors have frequently targeted U.S. organizations operating abroad. Our Overseas Security Advisory Council promotes an open dialogue between the U.S. Government and American private sector when it comes to the global security matters affecting their operations abroad.

The Council is directed by 34 representatives from organizations and government agencies concerned with overseas security. Through a Council recommendation,

DS operates a website ([www.osac.gov](http://www.osac.gov)) for a constituency of more than 4,500 U.S. businesses, non-governmental organizations, faith-based organizations, and academic institutions for the purpose of exchanging overseas security information. The site offers visitors the latest safety and security information, country crime and safety reports, global security reports, updated consular messages, significant anniversary dates, terrorist group profiles, significant press reporting, and much more.

A staff of international security specialists dedicated to serving the U.S. private sector researches situations throughout the world and examines concerns and issues that might affect regional security, such as political violence, criminal and terror trends, and local sentiment toward the U.S. private-sector community. Each year, this staff provides thousands of telephone consultations, develops time-sensitive reports, and conducts dozens of briefings for constituent groups both domestically and abroad.

Diplomatic Security has replicated the success of the Council around the world through its Country Council program. In more than 140 cities, U.S. embassies and consulates come together with the local American community to address security issues impacting the private sector and related U.S. interests in the region. The resources provided by the Country Councils, OSAC's domestic staff, and private-sector partners are leveraged during major events, as evidenced by the 2012 Olympic Games in London, when years of public or private sector cooperation to resolve security issues helped support a safe and successful operation for sponsoring organizations, the U.S. government, and Team USA.

## Document Fraud Investigation

The events of September 11, 2001, taught us that document fraud can play a major role in terrorist attacks. Terrorists devote extensive resources to acquiring and manipulating passports and visas to avoid detection of their activities. The al-Qaida terrorist organization is no exception. Al-Qaida has members who are expert document forgers who teach other terrorists their craft. Diplomatic Security's criminal investigations into passport and visa fraud contribute to uncovering and prosecuting

**FACES OF TERRORISM**

Yasin al-Suri  
Up to \$10 Million Reward

Muhsin al-Fahdli  
Up to \$7 Million Reward

Adel Radi Saqr al-Wahabi  
al-Harbi (Muharib)  
Up to \$5 Million Reward

**They Can Be Stopped. We'll Pay You For Your Help.**

These individuals have committed acts of terrorism, killing or injuring thousands of innocent people. The U.S. government is offering rewards for information that prevents or resolves any terrorist act against U.S. persons or property. Those providing information may also be eligible for relocation with their families. Your response will be kept confidential. If you have information, please contact the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

**The Family You Save May Be Your Own!**

Up to \$22 Million Reward for Information  
Leading to the Location of These Persons  
Responses Kept Strictly Confidential

Rewards for Justice  
Washington, DC 20522-0303 USA

[www.rewardsforjustice.net](http://www.rewardsforjustice.net)  
email: [RFJ@state.gov](mailto:RFJ@state.gov)  
1-800-877-3927  
1-800-USREWARDS

potential terrorists and prevent terrorists from reaching U.S. borders. For example, our special agents ran a highly complex visa fraud investigation, "Operation Eagle Strike," that involved the illegal issuance of U.S. visas to over 70 unqualified applicants. The possible connection of some of the visa recipients to terrorism prompted a manhunt by Diplomatic Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, resulting in the arrest of over 50 individuals in the United States and overseas.

## Cybersecurity

DS is also responsible for safeguarding the Department's global diplomacy networks from emerging cyber threats and activities. Every year, the Department encounters hundreds of millions of intrusion events and spam hits, as well as thousands of computer viruses and spear phishing attempts, targeted at 100,000 users worldwide. To achieve the necessary level of protection against these threats, DS operates the Foreign Affairs Cybersecurity Center, a 24/7 operation that provides near real-time detection, collection, analysis and reporting of cybersecurity events that pose an immediate threat to Department networks.

To protect the international maze of information technology (IT) assets in 285 overseas embassies and consulates, including sites in more than 189 countries, DS employs a “defense-in-depth” strategy that leverages its integrated array of security teams, tools and operational programs. DS focuses on uncovering and closing security holes that may allow unauthorized access to the Department’s networks and systems.

The DS Cyber Incident Response Team coordinates with numerous offices within the Department to remediate security events upon detection and reports the overall status and condition of the Department’s security posture in a daily report. This activity guards against the external penetration, compromise, or misuse of the Department’s cyber assets by hackers, criminals, hostile foreign governments and insider threats.

Additionally, DS deploys staff to U.S. missions worldwide to provide quality and timely information systems security support, expertise, and “hands-on” assistance. These specially trained Foreign Service security engineering officers serve as the DS “boots on the ground” to conduct security assessments, investigate computer compromises, and help to restore the systems at those specific locations.

Through a series of technical and operational guidance and educational materials, DS has helped transform the Department’s user base of over 100,000 into the front line



*Explosive ordnance disposal training is conducted in Afghanistan using full protective gear and a robot.*



*A group of Ugandan officials practice cyber forensic techniques as part of an effort to thwart the growing threat of digital terrorism.*

of network defense. The DS functional programs work like interlocking spokes to ensure that digital diplomats have the tools they need to perform their mission effectively and securely.

### **Threat Analysis**

Sharing intelligence is essential to fighting terrorism. Diplomatic Security brings cyber intelligence reporting and advanced technical analysis to its operational capability through the Cyber Threat Analysis Division. This diverse team studies terrorist activities and trends, as well as threats, to provide overseas posts and senior management with indications and warnings of activity that may impact the Department’s critical infrastructure. The staff correlates internal information with other intelligence

sources to generate a comprehensive cyber threat picture. The group also performs in-depth technical analysis of intrusions and provides direct support to DS counterintelligence and criminal investigations units. Collaboration with other federal and intelligence agencies ensures the timely exchange of cyber threat information impacting the Department and foreign affairs community.

The American public benefits directly from our threat assessments. We provide threat information to U.S. citizens through the State Department's travel warnings, public announcements, and consular information service.

For its success in reducing cyber threats, DS has earned special recognition from the National Security Agency—twice receiving the prestigious Rowlett Award for its innovative work in tracking malicious cyber activity and promoting the sharing of technical threat information throughout the federal government.

### **Continuing the Fight**

Cybersecurity, as identified by the White House, is one of the most serious economic and national security concerns today. We have made significant improvements in our efforts to face this challenge, and we continue to work vigorously to strengthen our capability in this fight.

In addition to training foreign police officers, paying rewards, sharing information with the private sector, providing cyber security, and analyzing threats, Diplomatic Security has other programs designed to detect or prevent terrorist activities, including scrutinizing the backgrounds of U.S. government applicants during the hiring process.

Through our worldwide presence, Diplomatic Security has forged solid working relationships with foreign police and security services across the globe. This presence, coupled with Diplomatic Security's counterterrorism programs, makes us a key player in America's efforts to combat terrorism.



*Instructor Scott Pearson and two Royal Malaysian Police officers review the process for examination of images during a training session in the capital city, Kuala Lumpur.*

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Revised January 2014

