

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
*BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY*

# DIPLOMATIC SECURITY

## MOBILE SECURITY

## DEPLOYMENTS



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## MOBILE SECURITY DEPLOYMENTS

### Introduction

U.S. State Department officials conduct diplomacy in the United States and at more than 285 State Department posts worldwide.



U.S. embassies and consulates overseas have been targeted by lone gunmen, rockets, mortars, complex manned assaults, and truck bombs. Terrorists have U.S. diplomatic personnel in their sights. The safety of these Americans is in the hands of the Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security, a global force of security professionals comprised of special agents, engineers, technical specialists, and others.

Among more than 2,000 Diplomatic Security special agents is a group of approximately 100 men and women with a unique responsibility.

**Mobile Security Deployments** (MSD) special agents defend U.S. embassies and consulates when there is violence in the streets. They augment the U.S. Secretary of State's protective detail for trips to the most dangerous spots on the globe, and MSD prepares security personnel at diplomatic missions for everything from screening visitors to surviving a terrorist assault.

MSD fields nine teams of special agents. Each team of six is small, cohesive, and travels as a unit to global hot spots, spending half of their time on deployment. They ensure that Diplomatic Security offers a quick response when danger threatens diplomacy anywhere in the world.

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*\*World map image contains the MSD deployments from 2007-2012*



## Training the Best

Diplomatic Security special agents undergo several months of rigorous training both at the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Law Enforcement

Training Center in Georgia and the Diplomatic Security Training Center in Northern Virginia.

MSD team members complete a further five months of instruction—an intense training experience known as The Green Team.

Green Team training prepares agents for small-unit operations in high-threat environments with little or no outside support.

The curriculum includes advanced tactical firearms training, defensive tactics instructor training, counter-terrorist driving skills, basic rope operations, dynamic room entry, land navigation, helicopter operations, tactical first-responder training, high-risk survival training, and familiarization with explosive countermeasures and chemical and biological agents.

Once integrated into deployable MSD teams, these special agents are ready to span the globe safeguarding U.S. diplomatic efforts. They participate in Security Support Teams or Tactical Support Teams and serve as Mobile Training Team instructors.



*A DS Special Agent serves on security detail in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in February 2004. Three agents from the Office of Mobile Security Deployments received the U.S. State Department's Heroism Award for actions during civil unrest on this deployment. (AP/Wide World Photos)*



*A precisely placed smoke grenade begins to fill the area as the MSD Green Team and their protectee charge from cover in a movement designed to reach safety. (U.S. Department of State photo)*

## **Security Support Teams**

Civil war rocks Cote d'Ivoire.

Soldiers in Mali stage a military coup.

An earthquake levels the Haitian capital and leaves the U.S. embassy surrounded by thousands of hungry, injured, and desperate survivors.

An Al-Qaeda suicide bomber steps in front of a British embassy motorcade in Sanaa, raising the threat to diplomats in Yemen's already dangerous capital.

Arab Spring revolutions topple governments in the North African nations of Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya.

In these crises and many more, U.S. ambassadors have called in MSD Security Support Teams to safeguard diplomatic personnel.

Security Support Teams augment a post's existing security infrastructure with Diplomatic Security special agents who have advanced training and experience in critical-threat environments.

Security Support Teams survey the safest routes for diplomatic travel and provide high-threat protective services on those trips. They also provide compound security and assist the Regional Security Office by providing tactical coordination with the local guard force and an Ambassador's bodyguard detail.

It is critical for U.S. officials to be on the ground during times of crisis. These teams enable those officials to remain engaged. If the environment becomes too unstable, posts may have to suspend operations. MSD helps the Department reestablish an official American presence long before a normal diplomatic mission would be possible.



MSD special agents take positions to defend the U.S. embassy during a terrorist assault in the Green Team final training exercise. (U.S. Department of State photo)

## Tactical Support Teams

American diplomacy often calls for the U.S. Secretary of State and other officials to visit the most troubled nations on earth, including countries at war, countries in the throes of civil unrest, and countries hostile to the United States.



For these high-threat diplomatic missions, an MSD Tactical Support Team augments the Secretary's Diplomatic Security protective detail by providing counter-assault capabilities.

In recent years, Tactical Support Teams have protected the U.S. Secretary of State in Pakistan, the Philippines, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, India, Yemen, Libya, Egypt, Jamaica, Cote d'Ivoire, Haiti, and Indonesia.

Tactical Support Teams are also necessary when foreign diplomats visiting the United States require the highest level of protection. For the annual United Nations General Assembly in New York City, the State Department has assigned Tactical Support Teams to protect the Palestinian president, the Iranian foreign minister, and the Israeli defense minister.



## Mobile Training Teams

U.S. embassies in combat zones can be targeted with rockets and mortars, but most U.S. missions go about their business on quiet streets in foreign capitals and major cities around the world.

So it was at U.S. Embassy Dar es Salaam in Tanzania

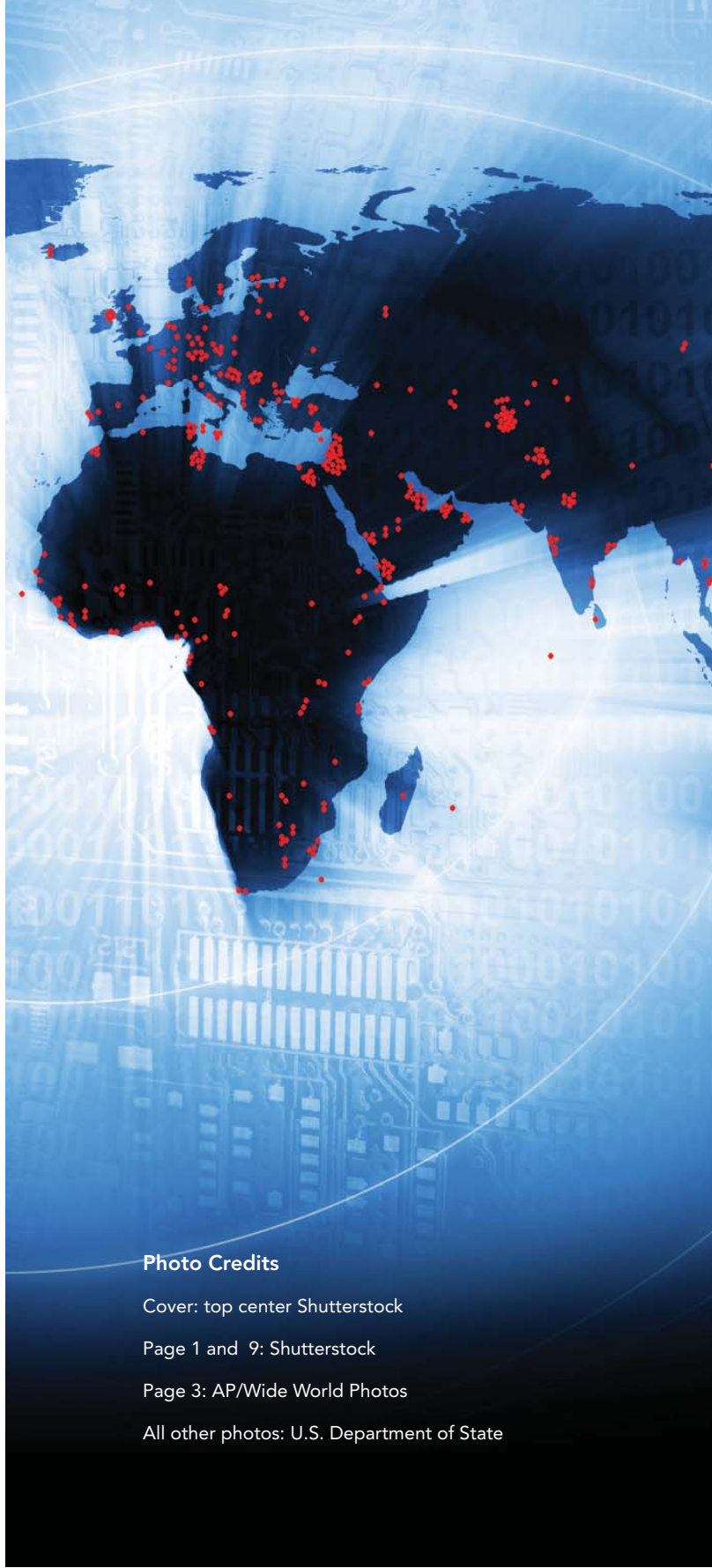
and U.S. Embassy Nairobi in Kenya on the morning of August 7, 1998, when massive truck bombs simultaneously pulled up to their gates and exploded, killing 224 people and injuring more than 5,400.

These events showed that a terrorist attack can occur anywhere at any time, and MSD Integrated Mobile Training Teams prepare U.S. embassies and consulates around the world for the worst.

MSD teams train Marine Security Guards, local guard force members and host nation law enforcement units to recognize when the post is under surveillance, to be aware of improvised explosive devices, and to screen people and vehicles entering the compound. They also train post personnel in defensive tactics, counter threat driving, firearms, and first-aid.

In recent years, Integrated Mobile Training Teams have provided specialized security training at State Department missions throughout Africa, Mexico, Central America, the Middle East, and South and Central Asia.

For more information about the Bureau of Diplomatic Security and DS special agents, please visit [www.diplomaticsecurity.state.gov](http://www.diplomaticsecurity.state.gov).



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United States Department of State  
Bureau of Diplomatic Security  
Public Affairs  
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[www.diplomaticsecurity.state.gov](http://www.diplomaticsecurity.state.gov)

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