



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY

2014 YEAR IN REVIEW



Finding the Balance

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Our Mission

The Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS) is the law enforcement and security arm of the U.S. Department of State. It bears the core responsibility for providing a safe environment for the conduct of American diplomacy. DS is the most widely represented U.S. law enforcement and security organization in the world and protects people, property, and information at 275 State Department missions around the globe. To achieve this mission, DS is a leader in discovering and mitigating terrorist threats to American lives and facilities, mounting international investigations, and generating innovations in cyber security and physical security engineering.

“American leadership and engagement should not be up for debate in the first place. Iraq, Syria, Ukraine, Gaza, South Sudan, Libya – I am not saying we can or should do any of it alone, but the world will not do it without us.”

U.S. Secretary of State John F. Kerry, September 2014



Gregory B. Starr

Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security

The year 2014 presented additional security challenges for the U.S. Department of State and Diplomatic Security with the rise of ISIL, or the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant; calls for “lone wolf” attacks in more countries; and even the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. While Diplomatic Security and the State Department are better prepared, better protected, and better able than ever before to manage risk, our task is made more difficult by the number of locations with growing insecurity and serious threats to advancing American diplomacy.

U.S. foreign policy often demands that we carry out our important diplomatic, development, and relief work in perilous places. Today the places where our presence is most needed are often those in which it can be the most dangerous to operate. DS works every day to reduce the risks inherent in our diplomatic work. But we will never eliminate risk entirely.

An enhanced and more broadly understood and shared risk-management process is one of the important legacies of the Benghazi Accountability Review Board. One of the core components of the Department’s plan to work at high-risk posts is through the High Threat Review Board, which I chair. The board carefully assesses the worldwide threat environment to identify high-threat posts. This is not a static process. As conditions change, designations will shift and posts may be added or deleted. These high-risk posts receive specialized attention. Using the Department’s Vital Presence Validation Process, instituted in 2014, we ensure that these posts have a defined, attainable, and prioritized mission balanced against resources and risks.

Another aspect of the Department’s broad and improved risk-management plan ensures that Chief-of-Mission personnel are now better prepared for operating in high-threat environments. We have increased the training time not just for DS Special Agents, we have expanded our Foreign Affairs Counter Threat (FACT) course for Foreign Service colleagues being sent to all high-threat posts. We are working toward universal FACT training for all Foreign Service personnel and other employees at our posts overseas, regardless of a post’s threat level.

The Administration re-affirmed the Department’s selection of Fort Pickett, located in Blackstone, Virginia, as the preferred site for the Foreign Affairs Security Training Center (FASTC). The capabilities

planned for FASTC – a purpose-built, integrated facility to meet unique foreign affairs security needs – are essential to meet our increased training requirements for the number of students and the types of courses offered.

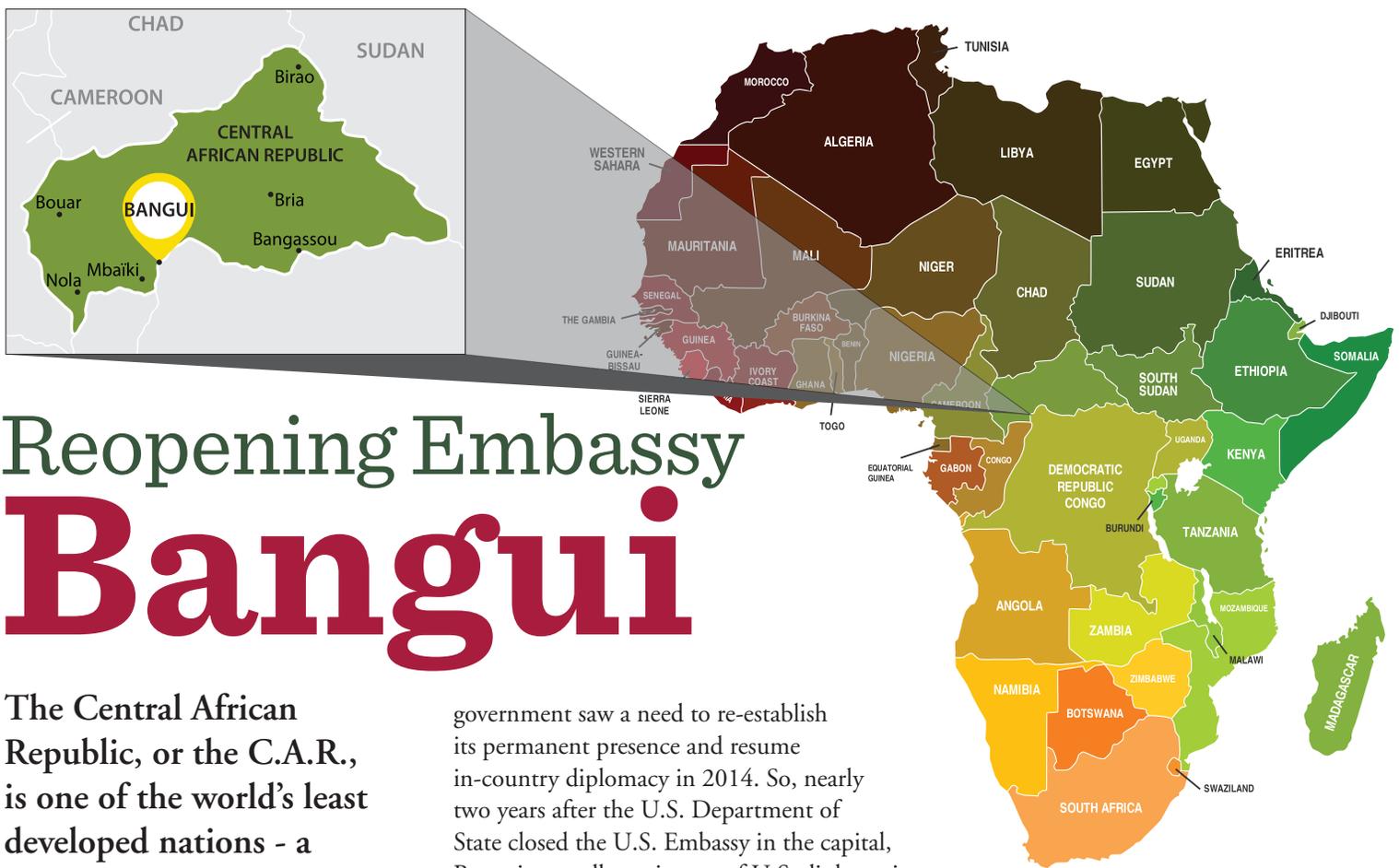
Another significant enhancement is an even closer level of coordination and alliance with the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD). Since 2012, the U.S. Marine Corps has identified and trained enough Marines to allow DS and the Department to establish 19 new Marine Security Guard Detachments, as well as new Marine Security Augmentation Units that can provide additional security in changing threat environments. DS and DoD work jointly through Unified Combatant Commands specifically covering all the global hotspots. These resources contribute to day-to-day security and can be called upon in the event of a crisis.

It was also a record-breaking year for DS criminal investigators who coordinated the capture and/or return of 324 international fugitives and 37 domestic fugitives. Meanwhile, our Assistant Regional Security Officer-Investigators provided information that led to the refusal or revocation of nearly 9,000 visas and more than 400 U.S. passports, further protecting the homeland.

We appreciate the additional resources that Congress has provided to improve and sustain our efforts. We look forward to continuing to work with Congress on ensuring that the foreign affairs community has a safe platform to advance our national interests.

Our people are our most valuable asset in this effort to reduce risk and advance diplomacy. Our highly trained Foreign Service personnel are out in the field every day, executing U.S. foreign policy. It is our mission, and our privilege, to do everything we can to reduce the risks they face. They deserve no less than our finest effort.

Gregory B. Starr
Assistant Secretary of State
for Diplomatic Security



Reopening Embassy Bangui

The Central African Republic, or the C.A.R., is one of the world's least developed nations - a place where arbitrary and unlawful killings are the rule, as are disappearances and torture, rape, and the forced displacement of residents.

Since 2013, the widespread violence has forced nearly 650,000 civilians to abandon their homes and live as internally displaced persons. Another 70,000 people have fled to neighboring countries.

With the C.A.R.'s humanitarian need growing and elections for a new government approaching, the U.S.

government saw a need to re-establish its permanent presence and resume in-country diplomacy in 2014. So, nearly two years after the U.S. Department of State closed the U.S. Embassy in the capital, Bangui, a small contingent of U.S. diplomatic and security personnel returned to the C.A.R. to reopen the facility and resume diplomatic activities.

Planning for Success

The reopening was months in the planning and was not without its challenges. Sectarian violence, atrocities, and social unrest continued to erupt during the preparations and even after the embassy resumed operations.

The effort marked the first time DS applied the new Vital Presence Validation Process (VP2) to reopen a diplomatic post. Developed in the aftermath of the September 2012 attack on the U.S. diplomatic facilities in Benghazi, Libya, the VP2 requires that a multi-bureau

team assess risks and benefits to the U.S. interests of maintaining a U.S. diplomatic presence at a high-threat, high-risk post.

The reopening of U.S. Embassy Bangui also marked the first use of the DS Deliberate Planning Process (DPP) to develop and implement a bureau-wide, interagency-supported security operations plan to reopen an embassy.

AFRICOM Assists

The Deliberate Planning Process determined that the U.S. government had few security resources in Bangui and could not depend on the C.A.R.'s law enforcement or security forces.



TOP: Chadian troops escort thousands of Muslim residents from Bangui in a massive caravan of vehicles on February 7, 2014. In a matter of days in December 2013, more than 1,000 people die in tit-for-tat violence in Bangui alone, and scores more die in the weeks that followed, with most of the attacks in Bangui targeting Muslims. **RIGHT:** A car burns next to a gutted Muslim-owned house in Bangui. **MIDDLE:** A tent city houses thousands of internally displaced persons outside the airport in Bangui, Central African Republic. **BOTTOM:** Special Agents with Diplomatic Security's Office of Mobile Security Deployments lead the security mission that reopens the U.S. Embassy in Bangui on September 15, 2014.

For the initial reopening phase, the Embassy needed reliable and well-trained security personnel on a temporary basis. DS turned to the U.S. Department of Defense's Africa Command (AFRICOM). An agreement between DS and AFRICOM resulted in the deployment of a small contingent of Marines with the Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Crisis Response Unit (SP-MAGTF) based in Moron, Spain, to provide static security for the Post until a contracted security guard force arrived in Bangui.

During this critical time, State Department personnel focused on final preparations for reopening the Embassy,

and AFRICOM officers assessed first-hand the facility that they were being asked to help protect.

Logistics

Phase two of the operations plan began on September 10, 2014, when an advance team of seven DS Mobile Security Deployments (MSD) Special Agents and a Communications Radio Technician arrived in Bangui aboard a cargo plane loaded with equipment. This was the first portion of the team that would reopen the U.S. diplomatic mission in the C.A.R. The MSD Special Agents were met at the airport by French troops driving forklifts to help unload tons

of U.S. Marine Corps cargo from the plane. Four days later, four more MSD Special Agents arrived in Bangui with the Embassy's new diplomatic staff – two USAID Officers, a General Services Officer, a Management Officer, the Deputy Chief-of-Mission, and the Chargé d'Affaires.

Upgrades and Repairs

While MSD Special Agents were engaged in their diplomatic and security duties, the Embassy's security systems and countermeasures had to be restored. A team of two set about restoring most of the Embassy's technical security systems

A Communications Radio Technician conducts routine maintenance on the DS Fly-Away MicroSat Terminal atop the U.S. Embassy in Bangui, December 21, 2014.



to pre-evacuation standards, including vehicle barriers, forced entry- and ballistic-resistant doors and controls, video security cameras and recording systems, and scanning systems, such as walk-through metal detectors and the X-ray system. Another challenge was the establishment of reliable and secure communications.

The U.S. Embassy Bangui's reopening marked DS's first deployment of a "fly-away" micro-satellite computer terminal, which was the backbone of the tactical operations center. Similar to a portable computer network server, the fly-away terminal provided the Embassy's

reconstituted Regional Security Office with immediate, secure, and stable access to the State Department's unclassified and classified information networks from the first day of the operation. The new Regional Security Officer (RSO) took over in mid-October 2014, marking the transition from the MSD security operation to a more normal embassy Regional Security Office operation.

The RSO subsequently oversaw the standing up of the Embassy security force, composed of U.S. security contract personnel, in mid-December. After a week's transition period, the remaining MSD Special Agents handed off motorcade security to contract personnel

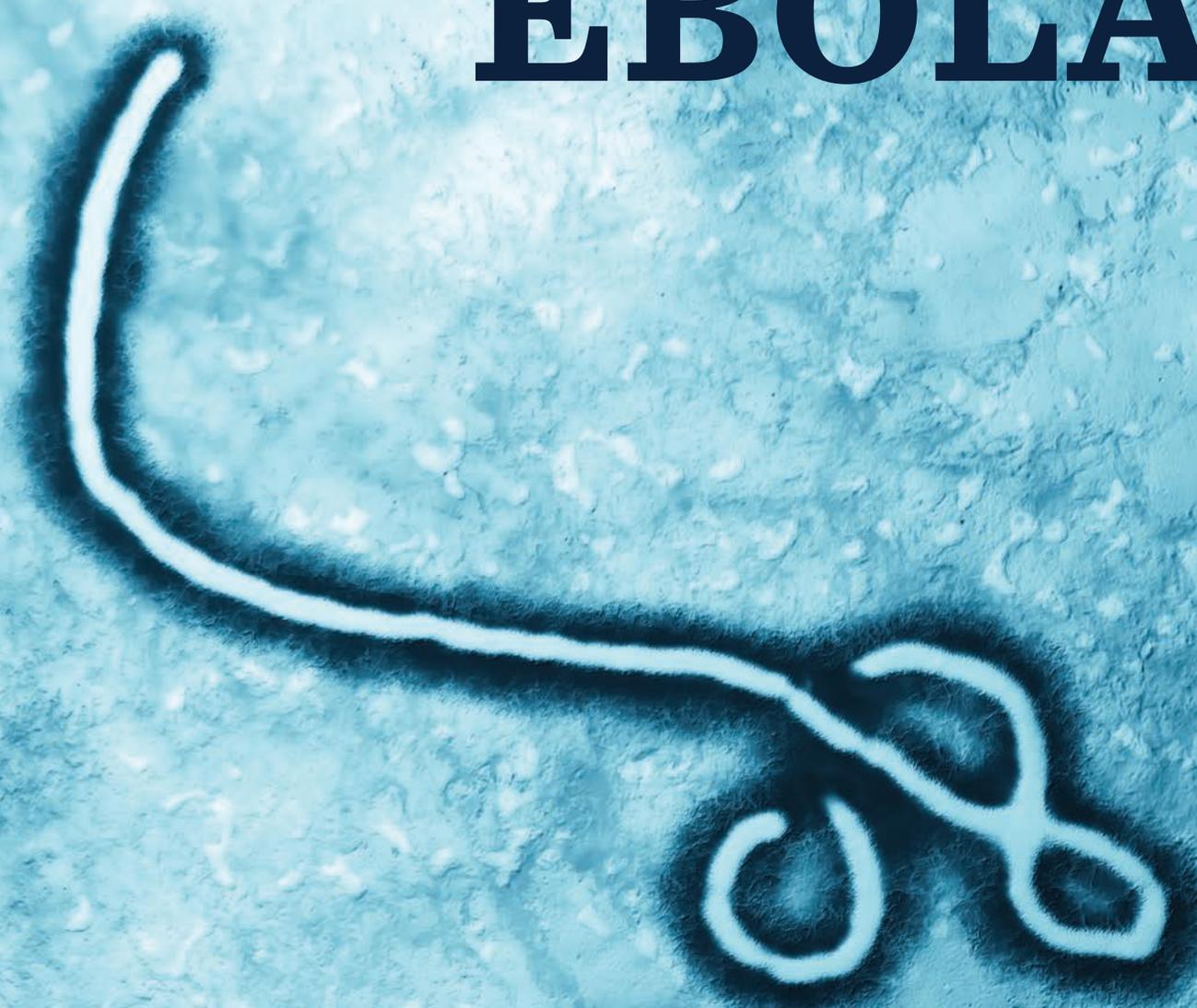
and departed the C.A.R. By early 2015, the Marines had completed their embassy security support mission, and the contract security force took over protecting the Embassy compound.

For all the months of planning and potential pitfalls, DS and other offices of the State Department had restored a U.S. diplomatic presence in a country sorely needing help after years of turmoil.



A Regional Security Officer (rear right center, in blue shirt) personally thanks each U.S. Marine from the SP-MAGTF security support team who helped establish security at the reopened U.S. Embassy in Bangui.

Facing A New Enemy:
EBOLA



In 2014, West Africa experienced the largest ever Ebola virus outbreak in Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea. The outbreak quickly evolved into a humanitarian crisis, as the number of infected individuals rose exponentially. By June 2014, the outbreak also presented new and unusual safety and security issues for U.S. facilities and personnel.

For example, there were suspensions of international flights into countries impacted by Ebola; some West African countries sealed their borders to persons coming from Ebola-affected countries; medical screening of travelers ensued, as did quarantining of travelers; and there were interruptions to African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) peace-keeping operations.

DS quickly assessed the fast-changing events on the ground and sprang into action to provide assistance to posts affected by the deadly virus.

U.S. Embassy Monrovia was particularly impacted by the heavy influx of visitors as the U.S. government prioritized support to Liberia. To establish the large office space required to support these visitors, the State Department decided to utilize an old chancery compound that had been vacated

a year earlier. Engineering Services Offices (ESO) in Abidjan and Accra documented upgrade requirements for compound equipment and infrastructure, which Regional Security Offices in Africa promptly moved to address. DS also ensured that posts were still receiving Engineering Services Center (ESC) support after traditional flights within Africa were interrupted. They did so by turning to ESC support flying in from Europe.

The interruption in air travel and access also impacted DS Diplomatic Couriers. Yet, despite the Ebola outbreak and its challenges, the Dakar Diplomatic Courier Hub consistently delivered critical pouch loads to Abidjan, Conakry, Freetown, and Monrovia via a corridor set up strictly for aid flights. Upon returning to Dakar, couriers would follow the required 21-day health protocol, reporting to the Embassy health unit twice a day to have their temperatures monitored.

As the crisis grew, DS led a security team composed of DS and Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations personnel to Monrovia, following President Barack Obama's decision to insert 3,000 U.S. Department of Defense personnel into Liberia to build much-needed basing and hospitals. The DS team focused on establishing a strategic plan for physical security upgrades at U.S. Embassy Monrovia and provided a framework for DoD

cooperation and a shared security responsibility for both DoD and Chief-of-Mission personnel and facilities. Ebola presented tough issues never tackled before 2014, but DS rose to the challenge.

U.S. Embassy Bamako, Mali, Conducts Ebola Drill

The Regional Security Officer and Medical Office personnel at U.S. Embassy Bamako, Mali, carry out an exercise to prepare staff for a potential Ebola-related emergency.

LEFT: The Assistant Regional Security Officer (blue shirt) plays the role of an American citizen exhibiting symptoms of Ebola. **MIDDLE:** The citizen comes to the Embassy seeking assistance, but then, passes out on the floor. The Local Guard Force, RSO, and Medical Office personnel immediately gear up in personal protective equipment and react to the simulated emergency. **RIGHT:** The Embassy personnel prepare the "patient" for evacuation and then decontaminate themselves and the area. The Local Guard Force learns how soft skills, such as being diplomatic and sympathetic, can help accomplish the goal of protecting the Embassy.



Other Emerging Threats

Because there is no way to eliminate risk altogether, the work at Diplomatic Security is never done. This year, as in years past, DS faced challenges in every corner of the globe from Europe to the Middle East, to Central Asia, East Asia, and beyond.

Europe

Due to an expanding U.S. government presence in Turkey, ongoing security threats, and the violent civil war in neighboring Syria, Mission Turkey remains at the forefront of U.S. foreign policy. To improve security at the U.S. Consulate in Adana, DS coordinated the deployment of a Marine Security Augmentation Unit (MSAU) to Adana until a new MSG detachment was activated. DS also increased security personnel in the country to support enhanced U.S. government operations in southern Turkey supporting humanitarian aid for Syria. These added measures in Adana and southern Turkey were imperative to enhancing the security of U.S. personnel.

Meanwhile, months of violent demonstrations in Kyiv and the Russian annexation of Crimea focused world attention on Ukraine and led to the Authorized Departure of Eligible Family Members and the removal of Peace Corps volunteers. During increasing instability, the Regional Security Office kept mission personnel safe by restricting travel to certain areas of Kyiv and southeast Ukraine. DS supported the need for increased security resources through an MSAU deployment. As the crisis in Crimea and Eastern Ukraine deepened, DS ensured that the Regional Security Office had additional Special Agents to handle the growing security operations.

In 2014, Europe and the world also saw ISIL emerge as a significant terrorist threat. DS's response was to proactively address concerns about regional foreign fighters and ISIL. Regional Security Officers from London, The Hague, Paris, and Brussels convened regularly to compare posts' security

postures, host country cooperation, and share best practices on embassy-wide drills. When several European security services and senior officials increased their threat ratings, DS more closely aligned its actions with DoD colleagues to increase information sharing specific to the ongoing ISIL threat in Turkey and on European-based foreign fighters for Syria.

Near Eastern Affairs

The kidnapping and murder of three Israeli youths in the West Bank in late June 2014, followed by the reprisal murder of a Palestinian youth in East Jerusalem, initiated a sequence of violent events and demonstrations, leading up to a prolonged period of conflict during the summer of 2014.

The U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv and Consulate General in Jerusalem remained on high alert during these events and DS continued to monitor and report daily on the security situation, while the Regional Security Officers made recommendations to ensure the safety and security of State Department American personnel and dependents. This included arranging for four evacuations of American citizens from the Gaza Strip. Regional Security Offices in both Tel Aviv and Jerusalem worked diligently, evaluating ongoing threats and providing security updates for the entire State Department and U.S. national leadership.

DS also coordinated with Threat Investigations and Analysis (TIA) on a series of twitter threats against DoD contractors and American teachers at American schools in Riyadh and Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. DS kept the State Department and the U.S. government



LEFT: Several hundred members of the Youth Union of Turkey carry posters of Turkey's founder Mustafa Kemal Ataturk and national flags to protest violence that killed 38 people in southeastern Turkey, in Ankara, Turkey, October 11, 2014.

RIGHT: People with Russian and Ukrainian flags take part in an anti-war rally in downtown Moscow, Russia. Thousands of people are marching through central Moscow to demonstrate against the fighting in Ukraine, September 21, 2014.

BOTTOM: Militants from the al-Qa'ida-inspired Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) celebrate the group's declaration of an Islamic state in Fallujah, west of Baghdad, Iraq, June 30, 2014.

Other Emerging Threats

community informed following the attack on two U.S. defense contractors who were shot. One was killed and another was seriously injured. All posts in Saudi Arabia convened emergency action committees to review the incident and assess their current security postures. Additional attacks on western expatriates in Saudi Arabia, combined with increased threat information and reporting of surveillance on U.S. facilities, led DS to devise countermeasures and identify security support to help mitigate the potential threats.

Western Hemisphere Affairs

Even weather can be a threat. In September 2014, Hurricane Odile decimated the Baja California Peninsula from Southern Tijuana to Cabo San Lucas. During the aftermath, DS coordinated with the Department's Crisis Management Support, the Executive Director, and the RSOs, as thousands of American citizens in Baja, California, were evacuated by the U.S. Department of Defense and government of Mexico. DS, in close coordination with the Regional Security Office in Mexico, provided travel support funding to enable the fluid movement of personnel as needed during the crisis. Additional DS Special Agents provided to the U.S. Consulate in Tijuana assisted American Citizen Services in conducting welfare and whereabouts checks for individuals residing in the northern Baja California area.

East Asia Pacific

For much of the first half of 2014, parts of Bangkok, Thailand, were paralyzed by anti-government demonstrators who blocked key intersections in the city in sometimes violent protests. A number of attacks using guns and improvised explosives aimed at demonstration sites and government facilities further raised the threat level. Amid the uncertainty, the Regional Security Office in Bangkok devoted most of its time to ensuring the safety of U.S. Embassy employees and operations. To aid in the effort, DS provided temporary Assistant Regional Security Officer (ARSO) support for Embassy Bangkok and Consulate Chiang Mai. DS was also heavily involved in coordinating the extended deployment of a Marine Security Augmentation Unit to Bangkok, the first time a Marine unit was deployed to this region, and Marine Security Guard staffing was increased.

DS also helped facilitate the deployment of an analyst to Bangkok to assist with mapping demonstration sites, as well as additional DS Diplomatic Courier support.

The Local Guard and Residential Security programs at posts abroad are core security programs vital to the protection of personnel, facilities, property, and activities. Due to the importance of these programs, DS requires regular and systematic review of selected posts each year. The aim is to assess the continued effectiveness of security programs to ensure their compliance with program goals, policies, procedures, and standards. The review must also identify deficiencies and vulnerabilities and make recommendations for program improvement.

In 2014, DS conducted 54 program management reviews at posts and 15 program assistance visits to address specific post concerns and enhance program effectiveness.



Tourists, including U.S. citizens and locals, walk to a Mexican Air Force cargo plane that flew them to Mexico City from Los Cabos, Mexico, after Hurricane Odile devastates the tourist resort city on September 18, 2014.

Intelligence and Analysis

DS personnel reviewed 1.6 million pieces of intelligence and generated nearly 2,000 analytical products for dissemination, providing timely intelligence analysis for ongoing crises in Libya, Yemen, Iraq, Israel, East Africa, and Afghanistan. DS also dispatched more than 4,000 daily threat notifications, including accompanying analysis, to Regional Security Officers around the world, and delivered daily threat briefings to DS leadership and representatives of the State Department's regional bureaus. Circulation of "The Diplomatic Security Daily," that provides intelligence relating to threats against U.S. interests overseas, continued to increase. It is now read regularly by more than 40,000 individuals in the intelligence and national security communities.

DS continued to assess and mitigate threats to the U.S. Secretary of State, Department of State employees and facilities, and foreign diplomats and visiting dignitaries to the United States through its protective intelligence, threat management, and intelligence liaison programs. DS conducted hundreds of threat reviews in support of the Secretary of State and Regional Security Offices at U.S. embassies and consulates throughout the world. DS Special Agents assigned to Joint Terrorism Task Forces across the United States provided their unique skills in support of the FBI's domestic counter-terrorism program and like investigations overseas. DS also implemented a formal threat assessment and management model to address workplace violence.





FEBRUARY

2014 Attacks

on U.S. Diplomatic Facilities and Personnel

FEBRUARY 18 – KYIV, UKRAINE

More than 400 people showed up at the U.S. Embassy to protest U.S. involvement in Ukraine's political affairs. Protesters threw eggs and what appeared to be tomato juice at the entrance. Several demonstrators then approached, throwing glass objects. No personnel were injured.

FEBRUARY 25 – TRIPOLI, LIBYA

A U.S. Embassy security vehicle returned to the Mission compound, where embassy bodyguards noticed what appeared to be two bullet impacts on the right rear window. No one was hurt in the incident.



APRIL

APRIL 4 – BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

Up to 30,000 members of various labor unions took to the streets of the capital, protesting against austerity measures being implemented throughout European Union countries. Demonstrators set off fireworks and flares, and threw rocks, bottles, and cans as they passed the U.S. Embassy. Two embassy vehicles sustained minor damage from the debris and one Federal Policar Officer assigned to the Embassy was taken to the hospital with a minor injury. Two local guards also received treatment for minor injuries.

APRIL 28 – BAGHDAD, IRAQ

Multiple rounds of small-arms fire struck the U.S. Embassy compound and its helicopter pad and an adjacent storage compound. No one was injured, and damage was minimal.

MAY

MAY 28 – HERAT, AFGHANISTAN

Unidentified insurgents fired a rocket-propelled grenade at a Chief-of-Mission convoy, traveling from the U.S. Consulate to Camp Arena. The rocket penetrated the back of the vehicle and exited through the left side. It fragmented but did not detonate, slightly wounding two American security contractors.

JUNE

JUNE 30 – VLADIVOSTOK, RUSSIA

A Russian male approached the U.S. Consulate General on foot. As he passed in front of the Consul General's two vehicles, he threw a rock. A police officer approached the subject and pulled him aside. The man broke free and threw a second rock at one of the vehicles, causing minor damage. The officer then handcuffed the subject who made numerous anti-American comments before local police took him into custody.

JULY

JULY 3 – BAGHDAD, IRAQ

Small-arms fire impacted on/near the U.S. Embassy Baghdad compound. No one was injured.

JULY 15 – DIYARBAKIR, TURKEY

Hundreds of people vandalized and destroyed tents prepared to host an Iftar dinner that was to be attended by a U.S. Consulate delegation. Protesters burned an American flag and chanted anti-American and anti-Israeli slogans. Several local workers setting up the event were injured. The protest occurred prior to the arrival of the U.S. delegation.

JULY 19 – ADANA, TURKEY

Demonstrators gathered outside the U.S. Consulate to protest against ongoing Israeli-Gaza clashes. A group of about 30 protesters broke off from the main group and rushed the barrier in front of the Consulate. They pushed the barrier down, and began to throw rocks and bottles over the compound wall, striking the Mission. Police then pushed the protesters back. Before it was over, two Turkish policemen sustained minor injuries. There was also minor damage to the front of the Consulate and exterior police booths. There were no injuries to U.S. personnel.

JULY 20 TO 21 – ADANA, TURKEY

One thousand demonstrators gathered at 5 January Square to protest ongoing Israeli-Palestinian clashes. From there, the protesters drove to Incirlik Air Base, stopping at the U.S. Consulate on the way. The protesters exited the vehicles and threw rocks over the compound wall, causing minor damage to a Mission vehicle. There were no injuries to U.S. personnel.

2014 Attacks

on U.S. Diplomatic Facilities and Personnel

JULY

JULY 23 – ISTANBUL, TURKEY

Approximately 100 individuals from a Turkish Non-Governmental Organization, Ozgur-Der, protested at the U.S. Consulate General. Participants chanted anti-American and anti-Israeli rhetoric, burned American and Israeli flags, and spray painted a derogatory statement on the compound's perimeter wall.

AUGUST

AUGUST 14 – ATHENS, GREECE

Police arrested an individual after he threw a brick at the main entrance to the U.S. Embassy, causing significant damage to one of the glass partitions. During questioning, he stated he was “fed up with all the damage the Americans had done to others.”

AUGUST 31 – BAGHDAD, IRAQ

A U.S. soldier on the U.S. Baghdad Embassy Compound was slightly injured after being grazed on the left arm by a projectile.

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 2 – BAGHDAD, IRAQ

As two civilian contractors were walking on the Baghdad Embassy Compound, a high-speed projectile impacted on the ground behind them.

SEPTEMBER 29 – KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

A suicide bomber targeted a number of Afghan National Directorate of Security (NDS) personnel gathered close to a small store near the main entrance to Kabul International Airport. The explosion killed four NDS personnel and Afghan civilians and wounded eight Afghan civilians. A locally engaged staff employee of the U.S. Embassy inadvertently caught up in the violence was among the dead.

“The task of keeping U.S. personnel overseas safe is a dynamic and ever-evolving process. We work constantly to improve our practices and protect our people.”

Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security
Gregory B. Starr

A photograph of three riot police officers in full gear, including helmets with clear visors and dark jackets, standing in a line. The background shows a city street with buildings.

Ukrainian Interior Ministry troops face off against pro-democracy demonstrators in central Kyiv on February 18, 2014.

NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 18 – BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA

Three Colombian males, who were part of an ongoing protest across from the U.S. Embassy, walked to the vehicle inspection area of the Embassy compound. Two men chained themselves to poles before Colombian National Police (CNP) officers arrived. A third male protester, who was not chained, punched the Assistant Regional Security Officer in the face, causing a bruise. The CNP managed to subdue the three individuals, belonging to a group of former General Motors employees who have been protesting across from the Embassy for more than three years.

NOVEMBER 19 – BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA

A Colombian protester from the ongoing demonstration across from the U.S. Embassy crossed the street onto Embassy grounds and made his way to the vehicle gate, while being challenged by three Local Guard Force personnel. The protester attempted to chain himself to the gate with a solid steel chain and lock. The protester made a second, unsuccessful attempt to get to the gate but was thwarted by Colombian National Police (CNP). The protester swung a metal chain and struck the CNP Officer in the face. He reportedly attempted to take the officer's handgun from its holster but was restrained and arrested.

NOVEMBER 26 – SANA'A YEMEN

A lone gunman, armed with an AK-47 rifle, fired a number of rounds at the U.S. Embassy Compound. A member of the Special Security Forces guarding the Embassy and the gunman were shot and killed. No group has claimed responsibility.

OCTOBER

OCTOBER 4 – KYIV, UKRAINE

An American entered a grocery store and engaged in an unpleasant exchange with four or five men who asked him if he was American. He answered, “Yes,” before departing the store. As he neared his apartment, a vehicle pulled up and three men jumped out and physically assaulted him before they escaped. The American sustained minor injuries.

OCTOBER 21 – BAGHDAD, IRAQ

Three incoming rockets were directed toward the International Zone. One rocket hit a compound wall of the U.S. Embassy. Two other rockets flew over the compound. There were no injuries and only minor damage to the Embassy wall.

Expanded Training



Training continues to play a major role in U.S. efforts to reduce risk and advance diplomacy, from High Threat Operations Courses, to experimental training on fire as a weapon, and Foreign Affairs Counter Threat training.

In 2014, 135 DS Special Agents and Security Protective Specialists attended the High Threat Operations Courses, preparing to serve as leaders at high-threat posts. Students participated in five “Capstone” exercises throughout the year. These multi-day exercises place the students in a realistic scenario and elicit critical thinking, deliberate planning, and problem solving for the various missions DS personnel will likely encounter overseas.

Fire as a weapon awareness training continued to evolve during the high-threat courses in 2014. The training includes the use of two “smoke houses” at the DS Interim Training Facility in West Virginia. Several non-toxic smoke generators allow instructors to quickly fill these facilities with dense smoke.

This allows students to experience the sensations of evacuating a building in smoky conditions. Smoke generators also are used during Foreign Affairs Counter Threat (FACT) training in a mock embassy scenario, during which students must safely evacuate from a chancery that has suffered an attack and is engulfed in smoke. U.S. Marines training for the Marine Security Augmentation Unit also received instruction on basic fire science and behavior, fire risk mitigation, and proper exit procedures.

The High Threat Security Overseas Seminar course became accessible to employees and family members online. More than 4,000 students completed the course in 2014, with 2,665 of those personnel from non-State Department agencies. Meanwhile, the decision was made to gradually expand the five-day FACT course from high-threat posts to all posts worldwide.

DS provided technical training to 30 federal and state agencies during 2014, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency, The Department of Homeland Security, the Transportation Security Administration, and The White House.

ABOVE: DS Special Agents learn 170 mission essential tasks during the High Threat Operations Courses.



Afghan Agents undergo Antiterrorism Assistance training at the Joint Afghan Training Center (JATC).



An Afghan Agent conducts Explosive Incident Countermeasures.

Antiterrorism

The **Antiterrorism Assistance (ATA) program** trains and equips partner law-enforcement and security organizations worldwide to confront and defeat terrorists. The training provides expertise in cybersecurity and computer forensics, crisis management, dignitary protection, bomb disposal, airport and border security, hostage-rescue techniques, and numerous other skills for foreign law enforcement and security personnel from 154 nations.

Countries are selected based on analysis of where terrorist threats to U.S. national security converge with the allied host governments least capable of effectively partnering to protect mutual interests.

In 2014, ATA delivered 626 training courses, workshops, and consultations, as well as associated equipment to more than 13,000 law enforcement participants from 54 countries.

Other Training

DS introduced two new initiatives in 2014:

- The Special Program for Embassy Augmentation and Response (SPEAR) to bolster security at U.S. diplomatic facilities in high-threat countries. The goal of SPEAR is to enhance the professional capabilities of partner nation security forces that will directly respond to violent incidents at U.S. facilities.

- In June, the United States and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia concluded an agreement to begin counterterrorism training and mentoring for the Kingdom.
- In Tunisia, ATA-trained counterterrorism units from the Ministry of Interior and the National Guard successfully dismantled a terrorist cell planning to disrupt the first parliamentary elections since the 2011 overthrow of long-time dictator Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali. Two days before the elections, following a 24-hour police stand-off, elements of ATA-trained Tunisian counterterrorism units stormed a home in a suburb of Tunis where the suspected militants had holed-up, killing six terrorists.
- In Afghanistan, ATA-trained units from the Ministry of Interior and the Presidential Protective Service provided protective security services for presidential candidates, Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah, during the Afghan presidential election. On June 14, 2014, there was a suicide attack on Abdullah Abdullah's motorcade that killed three of his bodyguards and three bystanders. Abdullah Abdullah was uninjured in the attack and was safely evacuated from the scene by his ATA-trained security team.

Mobile Security Deployments

MSD

The Office of Mobile Security Deployments (MSD) conducted missions in more than 60 locations worldwide while providing tailored training to U.S. overseas posts, security support to posts under high-threat conditions, and enhanced protective support to the U.S. Secretary of State.

In 2014, MSD visited 29 posts and trained more than 2,000 students. Everyone at post was involved from Ambassadors and Foreign Service personnel, to locally engaged staff drivers, to Local Guard Forces, Marine Security Guards, Regional Security Officers, and staff.

In providing security support to 37 posts during the year, MSD conducted diverse missions typically unsupported by other security elements but increasingly involving U.S. Department of Defense elements, such as the U.S. Marine Corps Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force.

MSD also partnered with the City of New York Fire Department and the U.S. Army's Asymmetric Warfare Group to develop and implement countermeasures in response to fire and smoke as terrorist weapons.





FAR LEFT: A DS Special Agent rappels from the roof of a smoke-filled, four-story building at the DS Interim Training Facility in Summit Point, West Virginia, on August 14, 2014. **MIDDLE:** A member of DS's Mobile Security Deployments (MSD) team uses a thermal imaging device to navigate with teammates through a burning building on August 12, 2014, at a New York City Fire Department training facility. The exercise is part of week-long fire-survival training for MSD members. **RIGHT:** MSD Special Agents, in tactical gear, confer with the New York City Fire Department's Captain before a rescue training exercise inside a five-story building filled with cold smoke on August 12, 2014.

Preparation, Preparation, Preparation...

RSO ABU DHABI pilots a multi-tiered, joint security exercise with the Abu Dhabi police. More than 100 security officers work together to prepare for multiple emergency scenarios, including a simulated attack at the U.S. Embassy Compound in the United Arab Emirates.



LEFT: A Regional Security Officer (far left) discusses response procedures with a Colonel (wearing fatigues), a Senior Foreign Service National Investigator (second from left), and an Assistant Regional Security Officer (far right) on February 5, 2014.

RIGHT: Staff with Regional Security Office Abu Dhabi prepare for the exercise on February 5, 2014.

BOTTOM: The Abu Dhabi Explosive Ordnance Disposal team uses a bomb detection robot to search the vehicle for explosives on February 5, 2014.

RSO MUSCAT takes over the U.S. Embassy in Oman to stage a hostage rescue exercise in the dead of night. This exercise is the grand finale to a five-day training event that involved three helicopters, six months of planning, and many personnel representing the U.S. military and the Royal Omani Police Special Task Force.



TOP LEFT: Omani and U.S. Forces practice helicopter insertion techniques at the Omani Police range facility on April 15, 2014.

MIDDLE: Omani and U.S. Forces descend into the Embassy's courtyard on the early morning of April 17, 2014, using fast-rope techniques.

RIGHT: Two Embassy employees (left and center), who volunteered to role play as hostages, are processed by U.S. Special Forces after a successful rescue.

BOTTOM: VIPs watch live video streaming from cameras throughout the Embassy of the hostage rescue exercise on April 17, 2014.

A Regional Security Officer (far left) explains the actions of Omani and U.S. Forces as they clear the facility and rescue the hostages.

Preparation, Preparation, Preparation...

THE RSO AT U.S. EMBASSY MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY, works with the local fire department to design and conduct a drill based on a mock chlorine gas spill and ensuing vehicle fire. Chlorine gas is now considered a weapon of mass destruction and has been at the center of some of the worst industrial accidents worldwide. There are concerns it has allegedly been used by ISIL in recent terrorist attacks.



LEFT: An Assistant Regional Security Officer (center, pointing) briefs Embassy personnel, June 6, 2014.

RIGHT: Embassy personnel wearing gas masks calmly move to a designated safe area, June 6, 2014.

BOTTOM: U.S. Embassy Montevideo first responders carry an “injured” role player to the ambulance, June 6, 2014.



In partnership with South African officials, the **RSO AT U.S. EMBASSY PRETORIA** carries out a successful white-powder drill based on a mock anthrax attack-type scenario.



The South African HAZMAT team demonstrates how emergency equipment is used in an anthrax powder attack, July 25, 2014.



The Deputy Regional Security Officer (wearing red shirt) and the Assistant Regional Security Officer (wearing HAZMAT suit) brief Embassy employees on what to do when going through the decontamination line, July 25, 2014.

Partnership with the **U.S. Military**

DS continues to develop closer ties to U.S. Department of Defense elements at the strategic, operational, and tactical levels to ensure that 275-plus U.S. diplomatic posts are prepared for all manner of threats.

Examples include the July evacuation of U.S. Embassy Tripoli and U.S. Marine Corps Security Force support to U.S. Embassy Sana'a, Yemen. DS was able to act, in no small part, because of the Bureau's ongoing relationship with DoD through the combatant commands and because of the military's excellent pre-planning. The same goes for U.S. Embassy Baghdad, where the U.S. military continues to provide robust security and is a critical component of U.S. ability to defend its personnel and facilities.

The alliance between DS and its DoD counterparts, both uniformed and civilian, is ongoing, vital, and valued.

One of the strongest partnerships in the history of U.S. civilian-military operations is the 60-plus year Marine Security Guard (MSG) program. MSGs have protected State Department facilities against anti-American riots and demonstrations and have helped evacuate U.S. diplomats and their families during times of crises. Their mission is more important than ever in the current threat environment.

DS activated 12 new MSG detachments in 2014: Adana, Turkey; Almaty, Kazakhstan; Banjul, The Gambia; Brazzaville, Republic of Congo; Lilongwe, Malawi; Monterrey, Mexico; Naples, Italy; Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; Vientiane, Laos; and Windhoek, Namibia. Despite significant challenges at two high-threat posts, new detachments in Beirut, Lebanon, and Erbil, Iraq, were also established.

New Marine Detachments in 2014



The Beirut Marine detachment is the first in 25 years in Lebanon and significantly improves compound security. The Marines provide an additional layer of security within the Chancery compound, providing internal security in order to prevent the compromise of classified material.

As part of the post-Benghazi expansion, MSG staffing levels rose with 56 existing detachments receiving new positions in 2014, for an increase of 104 MSGs worldwide.

The Marine Security Guard Augmentation Unit (MSAU) also heightened activity, with 30 MSAU missions in 2014, involving 255 MSAU Marines. In Kyiv, Ukraine, and Bangkok, Thailand, the MSAUs increased security during protests, large-scale demonstrations, and host government instability.

When Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) militants closed in on Erbil, Iraq, MSAUs deployed to reinforce security at the U.S. Consulate.

DS also spent more than a year working with the U.S. military to plan and transition military to State Department-led operations in Afghanistan. DS coordinated the security requirements for a reduction of Chief-of-Mission personnel in Mazar-e-Sharif. DS also worked closely with U.S. Central Command to ensure that the appropriate level of security was provided for all Chief-of-Mission personnel in Afghanistan as the U.S. military footprint there was reduced.

DoD's willingness to reinforce U.S. high-threat posts with forces ranging from Marine rifle companies to Army Special Forces units, and its commitment to respond with pre-positioned Combatant Command forces during contingencies, means the military is now an essential partner with DS in protecting State Department personnel and facilities in high-threat locations overseas.

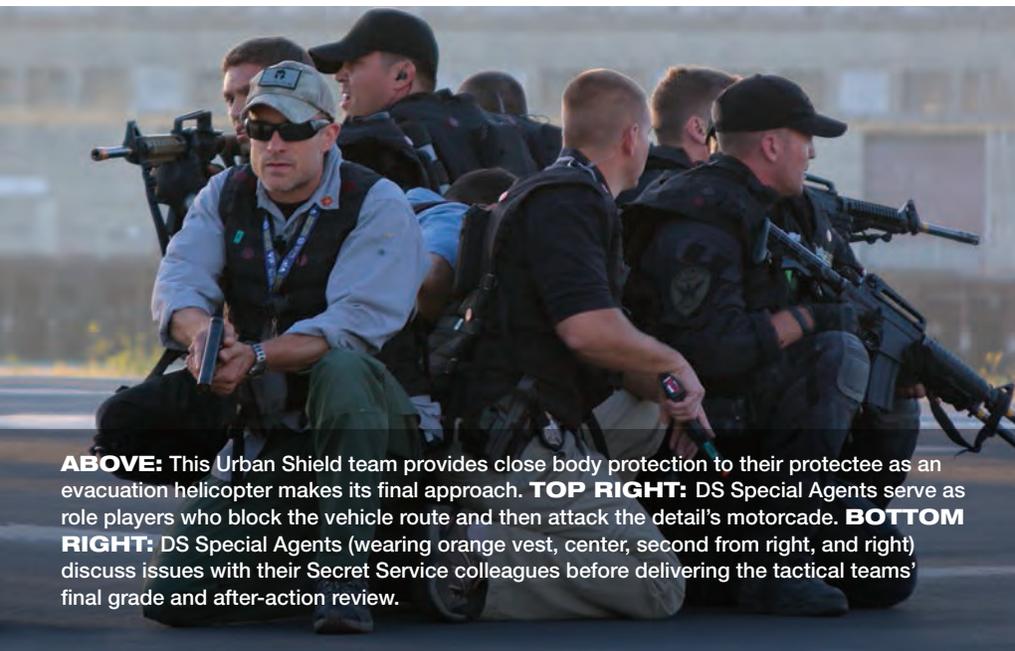
Other Law-Enforcement Partnership

Urban Shield is a public-private sector partnership that assists training tactical teams from around the world.

DS Special Agents from the San Francisco Field Office assisted the U.S. Secret Service's San Francisco Field Office in a multi-faceted dignitary protection scenario at the eighth annual Urban Shield Exercise in September that included an active shooter, an improvised explosive device, an attack on a motorcade, and a sniper attack.

This year's event attracted participants from various U.S. law-enforcement organizations, teams from South Korea and Brazil, as well as observers from numerous other foreign delegations.

The commander of South Korea's Maritime Police SWAT team called Urban Shield a "great experience" and shared that the team learned valuable lessons during the grueling 48-hour exercise.



ABOVE: This Urban Shield team provides close body protection to their protectee as an evacuation helicopter makes its final approach. **TOP RIGHT:** DS Special Agents serve as role players who block the vehicle route and then attack the detail's motorcade. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** DS Special Agents (wearing orange vest, center, second from right, and right) discuss issues with their Secret Service colleagues before delivering the tactical teams' final grade and after-action review.

Overseas Security Advisory Council

OSAC



Leading private sector security professionals gather for OSAC's biannual New York forum.

Diplomatic Security's Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) identifies threats to the U.S. private sector and provides timely safety and security information to American companies, non-governmental organizations, faith-based organizations, and members of the academic community operating around the globe.

In 2014, OSAC conducted nearly 3,000 security consultations with constituent organizations -- more than double the number in 2013 -- and produced more than 200 analytical security reports. These informative reports were made available to nearly 14,000 representatives of U.S.-based organizations via the website, www.OSAC.gov. OSAC also distributed 58 notifications to members of the U.S. private sector on specific and credible threats to their respective organizations.

Highlights of OSAC's 2014 operations include providing in-country support to the U.S. private sector for the 2014 Sochi (Russia) Winter Olympic Games and the 2014 World Cup in Brazil. OSAC also produced daily security analysis, forecasts, and real-time threat reporting for the U.S. private sector and facilitated critical information sharing during the events.

OSAC's premier event was the 29th Annual Briefing in Washington, D.C., on "Balancing Security and Privacy Challenges in an

Information Age." The November event attracted more than 1,200 security professionals from across the U.S. private sector to discuss the latest in security issues and best practices. Highlights of the conference included lessons learned from Dr. Kent Brantly who fought and subsequently contracted Ebola while in Liberia, as well as keynote presentations from U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson and Federal Bureau of Investigation Director James Comey. Attendees also participated in sessions on topics such as "Identifying Power Vacuums: Libya and Iraq" and took part in two crisis management exercises.

OSAC also supported 143 Country Councils worldwide, where American private-sector organizations operating overseas have

joined with U.S. Embassy Regional Security Offices to share information on subjects ranging from terrorist threats, to intellectual-property theft, to corporate espionage. In 2014, new Country Councils were launched in Hanoi, Vietnam; Tunis, Tunisia; Kyiv, Ukraine; Rangoon, Burma; Nogales, Mexico; and Lisbon, Portugal.

OSAC also launched new Regional Councils to cover the Middle East, North Africa, and other parts of Africa. The Pan Asia Regional Council hosted its first overseas event together with the International Security Management Association in Bangkok.

OSAC continues to develop its use of social media and mobile applications to communicate security-related information with its constituency and, in July, re-launched its Twitter handle (@OSACstate), tweeting OSAC analytic products, consular messaging, and photos from events.



Dr. Kent Brantly (center) of the non-profit organization Samaritan's Purse recounts his fight against Ebola with Samaritan's Purse colleague Dr. Lance Plyler (right) and Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) Regional Analyst Jennifer Hardwick (left) at OSAC's 29th Annual Briefing in Washington, D.C., November 19, 2014.

Protecting People



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, center, walks down a street in Paris with his Diplomatic Security Protective Detail.



A Security Engineering Officer (center) demonstrates video streams from multiple cameras set up at hotels to provide live feeds at the United Nations General Assembly.



A DS Special Agent (second from left) confers with her counterparts from the U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Secret Service, the Uniformed Division of the U.S. Secret Service, and the NYPD K-9 Unit at the United Nations General Assembly.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry's Protective Detail and DS Security Technical Specialists kept him safe in South Sudan and Iraq and 42 other countries in 2014, including extensive trips to the Near East, Africa, Europe, and the Far East.

Already one of the most travelled secretaries in State Department history, Secretary Kerry increased his travel time in 2014, covering nearly 310,000 miles. DS was there to protect him every step of the way in critical and high-threat areas such as Iraq, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nigeria, and South Sudan.

DS also protects U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power and a host of foreign officials when they visit the United States for major events, such as the U.N. General Assembly (UNGA) in New York City. During UNGA, the largest and most complex annual U.S. event in which DS is involved, DS protected several notable dignitaries, including Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman. DS also provided protection for the Foreign Minister of North Korea in what was the first visit by a senior North Korean official to UNGA since 2006.

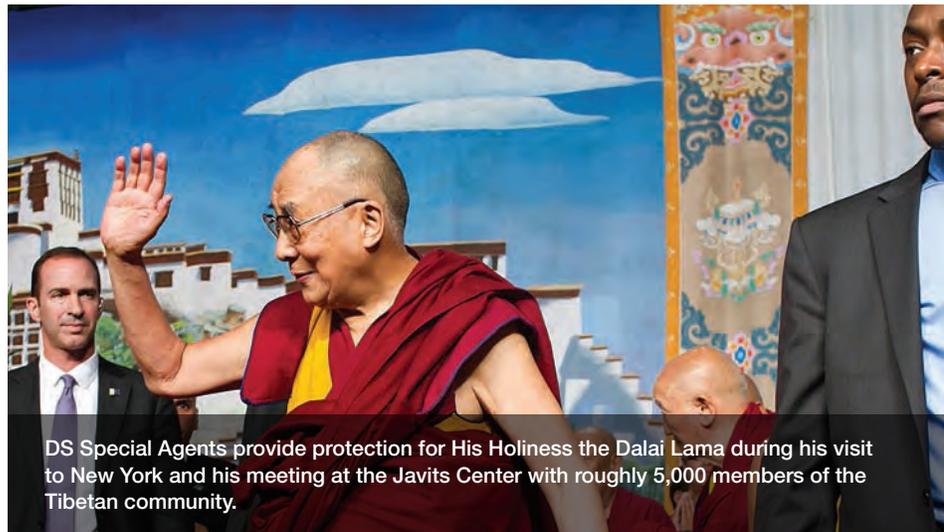


This was the 69th yearly session, where nearly 700 law-enforcement and support staff worked together to protect 42 foreign dignitaries in addition to Secretary Kerry and the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. DS protective details can even coincide with history, as in the start of the year for the two dozen DS Special Agents who protected Secretary Kerry, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, and more than 140 foreign Ambassadors who attended President Obama's State of the Union address. This was a National Security Special Event that required several months of close cooperation with many U.S. law-enforcement agencies.

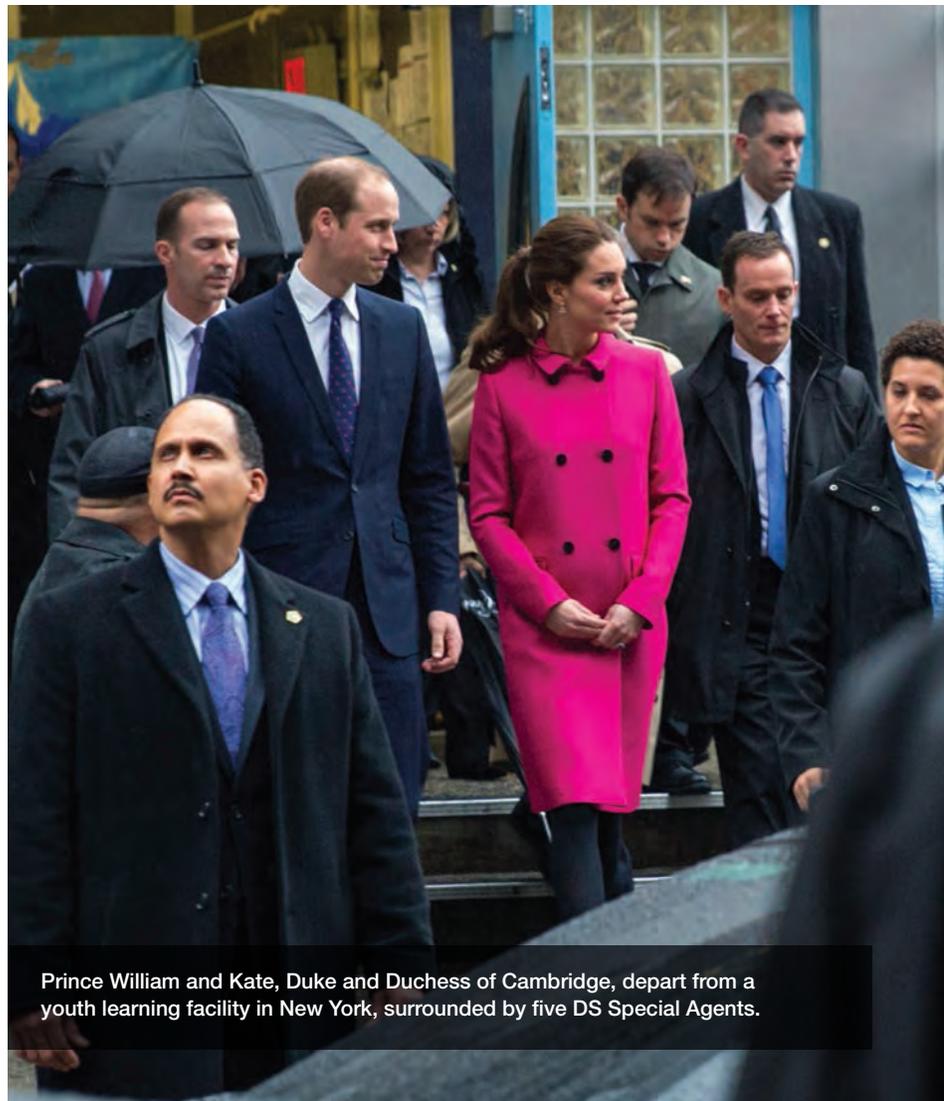
DS was also on duty during the first parliamentary elections in Tunisia since the Arab Spring in 2011, protecting the U.S. Ambassador to Tunis at election sites.

In October 2014, DS provided protection during a four-stop U.S. visit by His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

DS protection finished the year with a protective detail covering the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge during their December visit to New York and Washington, D.C.



DS Special Agents provide protection for His Holiness the Dalai Lama during his visit to New York and his meeting at the Javits Center with roughly 5,000 members of the Tibetan community.



Prince William and Kate, Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, depart from a youth learning facility in New York, surrounded by five DS Special Agents.

U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia Jake Walles (center, blue shirt), visits a Tunisian election site on October 26, 2014, with his DS Protective Detail.



Securing Special Events

DS began planning three years in advance to ensure the safety and security for U.S. athletes, coaches, and fans participating and attending the 2014 Winter Olympics and Paralympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia.

DS coordinated closely with the U.S. Olympic Committee and provided the White House National Security Council

staff periodic briefings on security planning. Fears of a terrorist attack were heightened following bombings in Volgograd just prior to the Games. The tense political climate between the United States and Russia made security planning all the more challenging.

Just over 50 DS Special Agents served as Field Liaison Officers at Olympic venues and Watch Officers at the interagency Joint Operation

Center (JOC). It marked the first time that a U.S. Olympic JOC had access to live, direct feeds of all security video and sensory information in real time, 24-hours a day.

The Winter Olympics and Paralympics ended successfully, with no security or safety incidents involving TEAM USA or other U.S. interests.



These DS Special Agents are on assignment to the Joint Operations Center in Adler, Russia, that operated 24/7.



A Major Events Coordination Unit Supervisory Special Agent (left) and DS Special Agent Field Liaison Officer (right) work 12-hour days at the extreme sports venue at the Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia, with a one-hour commute up the mountain.

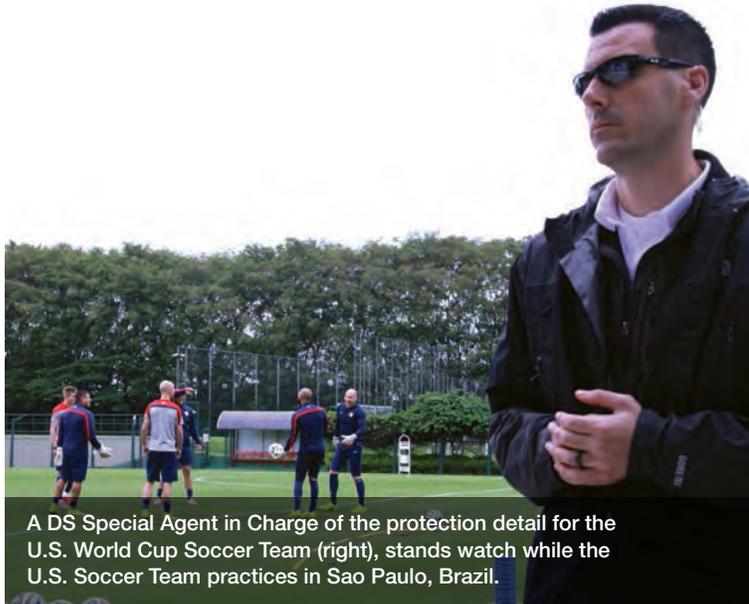
That success was quickly followed by another in June-July 2014, when the world's largest sporting event – The World Cup – kicked off in Brazil.

The DS protective operation supporting the U.S. Men's National Team was

composed of Special Agents who travelled to five cities with the team.

Additionally, DS Special Agents, U.S. intelligence analysts, and liaison and support personnel served in the Joint Operations Center located in Embassy Brasilia.

The event concluded without incident following years of well-publicized concerns over threats, crimes, violent demonstrations, and infrastructure vulnerabilities.



A DS Special Agent in Charge of the protection detail for the U.S. World Cup Soccer Team (right), stands watch while the U.S. Soccer Team practices in Sao Paulo, Brazil.



A DS Special Agent monitors the conference room as the U.S. Soccer Team gives a press conference at the Sao Paulo Football (Soccer) Club.



A DS Special Agent (center) speaks with his Brazilian counterparts as members of the U.S. Soccer Team prepare to depart their hotel for practice in Sao Paulo.



An Assistant Regional Security Officer Investigator (right) reviews World Cup-related security protocols with a U.S. Marine Corporal at the U.S. Consulate General in Sao Paulo.

Securing **Special Events**



President Barack Obama, seated rear center, presides over the third working session of the U.S. Africa Leaders Summit at the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C., August 6, 2014. African heads of state gather in Washington for an unprecedented summit to promote business development.

Another notable and new special event for DS was the first-ever U.S.-Africa Leader's Summit, hosted by President Obama and Secretary Kerry in Washington, D.C., in August.

Attended by 50 African leaders, the event was designated a National Security Special Event and was the largest gathering of heads of state in recent history.

In total, 24 federal and local agencies participated in securing the event, which was spread among five locations in the Washington, D.C., area.

Protective details began operating days ahead of the event as dignitaries arrived. Nearly 90 DS Special Agents partnered

with the U.S. Secret Service and Metropolitan Police Department to provide protective security for foreign delegations attending the Summit.

DS Command Center

Watch officers monitor information at the DS Command Center at DS headquarters in Rosslyn, Virginia.



Whenever anything is happening, the Diplomatic Security Command Center, the Bureau's 24-hour operational hub for all DS activities worldwide, is ever watchful and available.

Using the latest advances in technology, including personnel emergency tracking devices, remote monitoring of U.S. diplomatic facilities, and other communication systems, the Command Center proved to be a critical component during the planning and execution of national security missions overseas. In 2014, those missions included the

temporary suspension of operations in Tripoli, Libya, and the subsequent evacuation of the U.S. mission there, and the re-establishment of the U.S. diplomatic presence in Bangui, Central African Republic.

With the rapid spread of Ebola, the rise of security threats emanating from Syria and Iraq, and tensions between Ukraine and Russia, the Command Center served as the conduit of information to the Bureau in order to make timely and well-informed decisions.

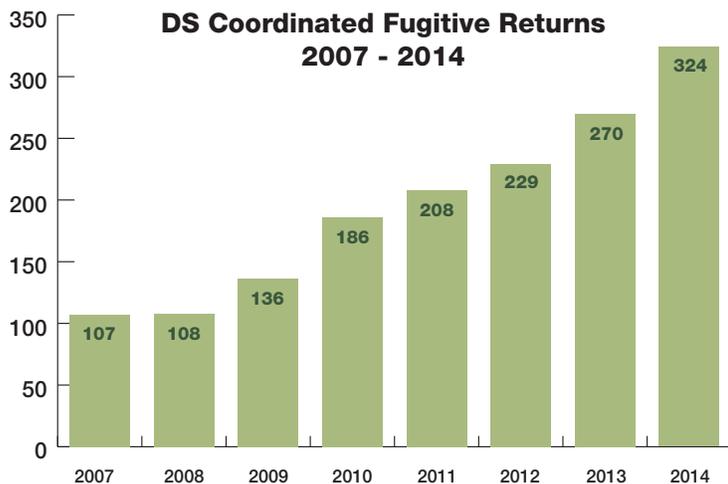
With a cadre of highly trained and experienced watch officers, the Command Center also offered its expertise and personnel to assist on-site during the Sochi Winter Olympics, the World Cup in Brazil, and the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Securing the Homeland



Investigations: Fugitives, Passport & Visa Fraud, Human Trafficking

In 2014, DS assisted more than 200 foreign, federal, state, and local law enforcement partners with nearly 9,000 requests for assistance. In a record-breaking year, DS coordinated the arrest and/or return of 324 international fugitives and 37 domestic fugitives, including one DSS Most Wanted suspect. DS also helped return 26 children who were abducted by a parent without custodial rights or were listed as missing.



The **Assistant Regional Security Officer-Investigator program** (ARSO-I) is DS's primary overseas investigation program, protecting the integrity of the global passport and visa system. ARSO-Is provided information that led to the refusal or revocation of nearly 9,000 visas and more than 400 U.S. passports. One of the program's most notable accomplishments took place in Nicaragua where the ARSO-I played a vital role in not only disrupting a major human-smuggling operation but also changing host-nation policies.

It is estimated that more than 1,500 Indian nationals entered Nicaragua and made their way to the U.S. border over a two-year period before DS stepped in. Ultimately, Nicaraguan officials agreed to change their Indian entry requirements based upon the work of the ARSO-I and others who assisted in the investigation. Now, Indian nationals must be interviewed prior to entering Nicaragua, which has effectively sealed off a prolific smuggling route into the United States.

The prevention of human trafficking was another priority for DS investigators. Inter-agency teams, led by DS, completed human-trafficking awareness and investigations training at eight U.S. diplomatic posts abroad in support of the Law Enforcement Working Group Human Trafficking Pilot Project. Approximately 1,700 Chief-of-Mission employees were trained during the project's first phase in 2014.

Rewards for Justice

The Rewards for Justice (RFJ) program bolstered the fight against international terrorism in 2014 with reward offers for a **record-high 23 “Most-Wanted” terrorists**.

In March, the program announced rewards for three members of the al-Shabaab terrorist organization operating in southern and central Somalia. In April, RFJ launched three reward offers for leaders of the Revolutionary People’s Liberation Party/Front (DHKP/C) in Turkey. In June, offers were made for four terrorists operating in western and northern Africa, complementing the first-ever rewards announced in this region in 2013. RFJ publicized four new offers for Haqqani Network terrorists in August and increased to up to \$10 million a reward for group leader Sirajuddin Haqqani. In October, the program announced reward offers totaling \$45 million for eight key leaders of al-Qa’ida in the Arabian Peninsula, the largest ever single-day announcement in RFJ history.

The program also expanded its outreach efforts in 2014 through a host of engagement platforms. April brought the launch of the program’s new website www.rewardsforjustice.net, featuring enhanced capabilities and a more user-friendly platform. The site’s updated format easily identifies wanted terrorists by their associated regions and better supports RFJ’s mission of advertising its rewards to create actionable tip traffic.

Broadcast messaging aimed at locating most-wanted terrorists remained at the core of the Rewards for Justice overseas effort in 2014 and went out in more than 40 languages to people in 70 countries. Domestic media outreach included interviews about reward offers and active social media engagement on RFJ’s Twitter page ([@Rewards4Justice](https://twitter.com/Rewards4Justice)).

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Rewards for Justice website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the text "Rewards for Justice Stop a terrorist. Save lives." and a search bar. Below the navigation bar, there are four tabs: "Most Wanted", "Acts of Terror", "Resources", and "About RFJ". The main content area features a large image of two young children, with the text "The most important reasons to stop a terrorist are all around you". Below this, there is a section for "LATEST NEWS" with three articles: "Nasir al-Wahishi Up To \$10 Million Reward", "Ibrahim Hassan Tali al-Asiri Up To \$5 Million Reward", and "Sirajuddin Haqqani Up To \$10 Million Reward". To the right of the "LATEST NEWS" section is a "SUCCESS STORIES" section with a story titled "Tip Leads to Conviction of Ramzi Ahmed Yousef". Below the "SUCCESS STORIES" section is a "Connect With Us" section with social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and RSS. At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with a grid of links for "MOST WANTED", "ACTS OF TERROR", "RESOURCES", "ABOUT RFJ", and "CONNECT".

DS Field Offices

BOSTON

The DS St. Albans, Vermont, Resident Office (SARO) inaugurated a joint intelligence operation to detect, disrupt, and deter visa fraud and increase security cooperation along the U.S.-Canada border. Working with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Border Patrol, the Canada Border Services Agency, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and other federal, state, and local agencies, SARO received and evaluated referrals from its partners to identify various criminal exploitations of the U.S. travel system. The operation has generated numerous visa revocations, leads, and concurrent criminal investigations. Most importantly, the operation strengthened law-enforcement cooperation across the northern border and with U.S. posts worldwide.

CHICAGO

In the southern district of Indiana, Arthur Israelov was sentenced to 27 months in prison for passport fraud and aggravated identity theft. Israelov applied for and received two Indiana driver's licenses, a Nevada driver's license, a social security card, and a U.S. passport in the name of another person. Information obtained through grand jury subpoenas and evidence later seized during a Chicago Field Office-led search warrant indicated Israelov discharged \$1.7 million in debt through a fraudulent bankruptcy filing. Rather than face this evidence of bankruptcy fraud at trial, Israelov stipulated in court to making material omissions to his bankruptcy filing and pled guilty to the passport fraud and aggravated identity theft charges.

MIAMI

DS Miami Field Office Special Agents led the case against Damion Baston who was sentenced to 27 years in prison for 21 counts, including sex trafficking, passport fraud, identity theft, and money laundering. Months of high-level investigations spanning the globe yielded 60 subpoenas, 13 search warrants, electronic forensic evidence, and more than 60 investigative reports. Baston's trial centered on 15 key witnesses and roughly 400 exhibits. It also marked the first time the recently enacted extraterritorial jurisdiction provision of the anti-trafficking laws was used to charge sex trafficking that occurred in another country.

NEW YORK

The DS New York Field Office, in coordination with the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Education and its Office of the Inspector General, initiated a multi-year investigation targeting Micropower Career Institute and the Institute for Health Education -- for-profit educational institutions in New York and New Jersey. The owners and/or managers of the schools were charged with conspiracy to commit visa fraud, wire fraud, and financial aid fraud. Within weeks, the defendants were indicted; two of the defendants were indicted with additional charges of money laundering; and \$1.5 million was seized from three Signature Bank accounts. All six of the Micropower Career Institute campuses have since gone out of business.

HOUSTON

DS Houston Field Office (HFO) Special Agents worked with the United States Attorney's Office in Beaumont, Texas, to obtain an arrest warrant for Passport Application Fraud after an individual executed a passport renewal application by mail in the name of his father while on probation from a previous conviction of indecency with a child. HFO agents coordinated with the Regional Security Office and Honduran officials to locate, detain, and return the applicant to Texas from Honduras where he had fled following a Department of Homeland Security search of his computer for child pornography in early 2012. The subject's return from Honduras resulted in an additional two counts of child pornography to the existing indictment on passport fraud charges. In December 2014, the applicant pled guilty to one count of Possession of Materials Involving the Sexual Exploitation of Minors.

LOS ANGELES

A DS San Diego Resident Office investigation, coordinated with the IRS, revealed that an individual obtained passports in eight different identities over 30 years. During a search, agents discovered \$1.6 million in gold coins hidden in a storage locker. The subject of the investigation was convicted in 2014 on 19 counts of tax evasion, passport fraud, and identity theft and sentenced to five years and \$2 million in restitution. The gold was seized to pay the delinquent taxes owed.

SAN FRANCISCO

In the U.S. District Court for the District of Utah in 2014, James Alcalá pled guilty to one count of visa fraud and one count of conspiracy to commit visa fraud and alien smuggling. His plea came six years after the DS Special Agent assigned to the Document and Benefit Fraud Task Force in Denver initiated the investigation into Alcalá. The 17-count indictment alleged that Alcalá, his Salt Lake City law firm, his property management company, and seven others assisted Utah employers in obtaining H-2 visas for ineligible aliens, as well as counseling aliens who were unlawfully present in the United States to make false statements to obtain their visas. The co-defendants were involved in bringing thousands of Mexican nationals into the United States illegally. Alcalá was sentenced to 56 months in prison and 36 months supervised release, and asset forfeiture seizures were made in excess of \$1 million.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Greensboro, North Carolina, Resident Office is lead agency in Operation Hammerlock, a multi-agency investigation targeting a major H-2 visa foreign labor recruiter/provider in the United States. To date, the case has resulted in six indictments and three convictions. One co-conspirator pled guilty to reduced charges and pled the company, as a corporate entity, guilty of 40 felony counts of visa fraud, alien smuggling, and money laundering. To date, the U.S. government has received over \$590,000 in asset forfeiture shared between the Diplomatic Security Service and the Internal Revenue Service, and an additional \$900,000 is awaiting judgment. The case is pending trial.

Innovation



Director of National Intelligence James Clapper presents the National Intelligence Meritorious Unit Citation, in recognition of outstanding service, to Geospatial Analyst David Scavo, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Threat Investigations and Analysis (TIA) Rob Hartung, and Office Director of Intelligence and Threat Analysis Kurt Rice.

Just as the enemies facing the United States change, so do their methods. As a result, DS must always work to stay one step ahead in order to reduce risk and save lives. One way to do this is to keep innovating DS methods and equipment.

A new geospatial database – a joint effort between DS and the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency – won the National Intelligence Meritorious Unit Citation in 2014.

The database is the first worldwide repository of geospatial data of foreign cities hosting U.S. missions. It can be used on computers by RSOs at post and managers at DS headquarters to simultaneously see and analyze an area of interest.

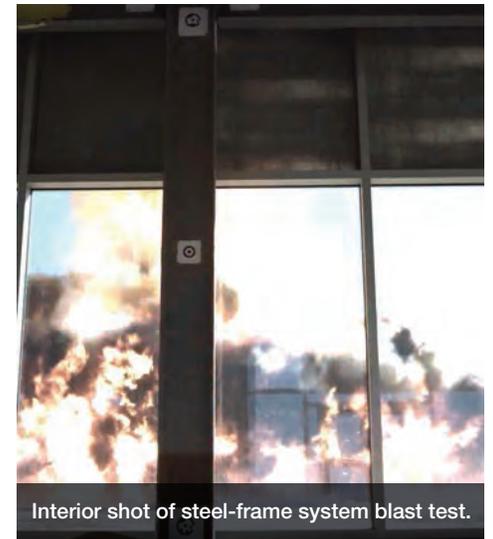
Take Kyiv, for example, where more than 15 families suddenly found themselves living literally at the center of a political revolution in February 2014. The geospatial database allowed the Assistant Regional Security Officer in Kyiv to work with headquarters to track residences in real time against current threat information. With that information, DS was able to safely relocate the families, largely due to being able to rapidly analyze the geography, and plot new barricades, flashpoints, and police and protestor movements.

In the desert of Socorro, New Mexico, DS coordinated a steel-frame system blast test at the Energetic Materials Research and Testing Center. This was the first test in a planned series to determine if steel-frame system buildings may be suitable for occupancy abroad, thus challenging conventional, but not necessarily correct, assumptions about

such buildings. This test showed the failure of a conventional, or non-blast resistant, curtain wall and the certifiable success of the Steel Frame System that held strong.

DS also established a worldwide laser-etching program that will improve the process to account for and inventory all DS-issued weapons and optics on an annual basis.

In September 2014, DS formally adopted the Deliberate Planning Process (DPP) for use in all DS investigative, protective, and overseas operations. The seven-step common planning process and language ensures unified, synchronized DS bureau-wide action in support of State Department operations, and gives DS leaders a repeatable and constantly improving process to drive excellence in all operations.



Interior shot of steel-frame system blast test.

OTHER RISK MITIGATION

Marine Security Guard Upgrades

DS personnel surveyed and planned for new MSG detachments in Suva, Fiji; Surabaya, Indonesia; Chennai, India; Hyderabad, India; Kolkata, India; Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; Bangkok, Thailand; and Lahore, Pakistan.

New Buildings

DS assisted in the accreditation and move-in into new facilities in Vientiane, Laos, and AID/Kaohsiung, Taiwan. In Vientiane, DS and Overseas Buildings Operations personnel worked collaboratively to test and remediate a potential vulnerability to the controlled access areas. Other diplomatic facilities completed in 2014 include:

- **Abuja, Nigeria:** Annex and Marine Residence
- **Monterrey, Mexico:** Consulate General
- **Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso:** Marine Residence
- **Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic:** Embassy Complex
- **Rabat, Morocco:** Embassy Complex
- **Guayaquil, Ecuador:** Consulate General

Access Control Upgrades

Major projects to upgrade automated access control systems were successfully completed in Ulaanbaatar and Beijing.

Iraq Biometric Verification System Installation

DS installed system hardware at the Baghdad Embassy Compound, the Baghdad Diplomatic Support Center, the Embassy Heliport, and

Consulate Basrah in 2014. This provides security personnel the ability to positively identify local employees before granting them access to U.S. facilities.

Sense-and-Warn in Iraq

DS deployed two new Giraffe radar systems in Baghdad and Basrah to replace the ones on loan from the U.S. military. DS also assumed full responsibility for the operation of the complete system. The system has been activated several times since the beginning of the ISIL offensive, allowing employees to take cover and avoid serious injury following rocket mortar attacks.



Rendering of new U.S. Embassy Vientiane, Laos.

Diplomatic Couriers



Diplomatic Couriers at the Miami Airport load diplomatic pouches on the way to Havana, Cuba.

Diplomatic Couriers have long exercised innovation in their work, and in 2014 showed no signs of slowing down, spending nearly 62,000 hours travelling by sea, road, air, and rail to deliver nearly nine million pounds of classified and sensitive material.

Dispatch of Diplomatic Couriers supporting the Secretary of State's mobile communications team was continuous and intense, with 61 missions. The Diplomatic Courier Service not only delivers the classified pouches to multiple destinations, it must also retrieve and quickly turn them around to stage at the Secretary's next destination.

Due to a fluid security situation in Pakistan, diplomatic pouch service can be erratic to both Islamabad and Karachi from U.S. Embassy Bangkok. Service was often cancelled abruptly by posts due to local security concerns, such as the attack on Karachi Airport.

To provide greater flexibility in service to critical Pakistan posts, the Diplomatic Courier Service instituted delivery and retrieval of classified material from the Diplomatic Courier Hub in Manama, Bahrain, in case any future security challenges required an alternative routing.

In 2014, Thailand experienced significant political changes, including the removal of the country's prime minister, implementation of martial law by the Thai Military, followed by a military coup. All of these events could have affected Diplomatic

Courier operations to 60 U.S. Missions throughout Asia and Oceania, yet through dynamic scheduling, these tumultuous changes caused no interruption to diplomatic pouch service.

But the highlight of the year for the Diplomatic Courier Service came in December when a record seven Diplomatic Couriers delivered 35 classified pouches to the U.S. Interests Section in Havana, Cuba. The trip came just two days before President Obama announced plans to re-establish diplomatic relations with Cuba and ease travel and economic sanctions.

Vetting/Hiring **the Best**

As DS grows to meet the evolving security needs of the State Department, the challenge of finding high-caliber personnel also increases.

In 2014, DS vetted nearly 2,500 candidates to select the most qualified to fulfill the DS mission.

DS hired 73 new Special Agents in 2014. DS also brought in 11 new Security Technical Specialists, six Security Engineering Officers, and 11 Diplomatic Couriers. Civil Servants were among those answering the call to service, with 124 new employees hired in 2014. In addition, 30 new Personal Services Contractors were hired, bringing their total number to 415.

To ensure a secure workforce, DS vetted the backgrounds of more than 30,000 employees, candidates, and contractors in 2014, performing 90 percent of new investigations in an average of 100 days.

Protecting IT Infrastructure

The DS cyber-security team worked hard to detect, react, analyze, and respond to a series of highly sophisticated cyber threats in 2014.

In response to the well-publicized “Heartbleed” bug and “ShellShock” vulnerabilities that affected government and private-sector systems worldwide, the DS cyber-security team devised customized network monitoring signatures and performed a series of special global security scans in order to detect and patch these security holes.

A major highlight for the team in 2014 was the integral role it played in supporting the joint federal computer crime investigation that resulted in the indictment of a Romanian hacker known as “Guccifer.” “Guccifer” was charged with hacking into the e-mail and social media accounts of high-profile victims, including two former U.S. presidents, a former U.S. cabinet member, a former member of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, and a former presidential advisor.





Cooperation with Congress

Congressional interest in DS remained robust in 2014, with more than 100 Hill briefings and approximately 1,000 inquiries reviewed. DS worked with Congress on everything from legislation, to reports and briefing materials, to testimony, budget, and Government Accountability Office issues.

Other topics of Congressional interest were security clearances, private security contractors, establishing a consolidated hard-skills security training center at Ft. Pickett, Virginia, anti-terrorism assistance, and embassy security.

Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security
Gregory B. Starr testifies before the House Select Committee
on Benghazi in Washington, D.C., on September 17, 2014.

In Memoriam

Each year, DS is reminded that the highest price of providing security in a dangerous world is tragic loss of life. DS professionals courageously put their mission above all else.

Without the men and women of Diplomatic Security safeguarding compounds, controlled-access areas, motorcades, and other official movements, U.S. diplomacy would be impossible.

On September 29, 2014, a suicide bomber killed a U.S. Embassy local guard on routine traffic duty near the main entrance to Kabul International Airport. Abdul Rahman was one of several individuals killed that day.

In Sana'a, Yemen, on November 26, local police officer Mo'aath Farhan Shyef died protecting a checkpoint near Embassy Sana'a, when a lone gunman, armed with an AK-47 rifle, fired several rounds at the U.S. Embassy compound.

Both men's extraordinary sacrifice and service were not in vain. The Bureau of Diplomatic Security mourns these two colleagues and friends lost in Afghanistan and Yemen.

In their memory, DS remains steadfast in its efforts to reduce risk and advance diplomacy.





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