



A BRIEF HISTORY OF

U.S. DIPLOMATIC COURIER SERVICE

The **U.S. Diplomatic Courier Service** safeguards and escorts diplomatic pouches containing classified and sensitive materials between 275 U.S. diplomatic missions overseas and the U.S. Department of State.

1919

Silver Greyhounds established routes to U.S. embassies across war-ravaged Europe.

1941-45

Increased cooperation and overlap of duties between diplomatic and military couriers.

1955

Nathaniel Ragsdale became first black courier.

1974

Susan S. Carter becomes the first woman courier.

1990s

The Diplomatic Courier Service established **hubs around the world** to improve efficiency.

2018

100 U.S. diplomatic couriers operate from **10 regional hubs** around the globe.

1918

Gen. John Pershing authorized **U.S. Army Maj. Amos Peaslee** to organize a courier detachment, the "**Silver Greyhounds**."

Amos Peaslee was the first official U.S. diplomatic courier.

1941

First **Chief of Couriers Edwin Schoerlrich** named and courier service HQ established.

1950s-60s

Diplomatic couriers depicted as dashing secret messengers in **movies and TV shows** during Cold War.

1961

Vienna Convention guarantees the "**inviolability**" of diplomatic pouches and the couriers.

1985

Diplomatic couriers join **Diplomatic Security Service**.

2008

Deborah Glass became the first female director of the Diplomatic Courier Service.

1918-2018
100
YEARS OF
DIPLOMATIC
COURIERS