Regional Security Officer (RSO): A DSS special agent who is the senior U.S. law enforcement officer in country. The RSO advises the chief of mission on security and law enforcement matters, and manages security programs designed to protect U.S. government personnel, facilities, and information. Within the RSO shop:

- **Deputy and Assistant RSOs**: Assist RSOs with their mission.
- **Security Engineering Officers, Security Technical Specialists, and Seabees**: Install and maintain technical security systems.
- **Marine Security Guards**: Support protection mission and prevent the compromise of national security information and equipment.
- **Local Guard Force**: Assist with physical and virtual security at post.

In 2021, **U.S. Diplomatic Couriers**, based out of **4 regional hubs**, delivered more than 500,000 pounds of secure cargo to the AF region.

Through the department’s **ATA program**, DSS trained **2,055 law enforcement partners**, delivered equipment to **2 partner countries**, and managed **4 ATA exercises** in FY 2018.

**18 Assistant Regional Security Officer-Investigators (ARSO-Is)**: Target and disrupt terrorists and transnational criminal organizations that attempt to exploit U.S. travel and identity documents. They investigate passport and visa fraud, assist in investigating crimes against U.S. citizens, and train and collaborate with foreign nation law enforcement and immigration authorities.

- ARSO-Is in Cape Town and Johannesburg coordinated the extradition of a U.S. fugitive, wanted for illegally attempting to export plants to a foreign country, who also attempted to remove 60,000 rare plants from South Africa with an estimated value of $1 million.
- In 2021, AF regional ARSO-I teams trained 2,650 host nation partners in how to detect document fraud and human trafficking, facilitated 143 arrests, returned 10 U.S. fugitives, and recommended 335 visas for revocation.

**Bureau of African Affairs**

**Member Countries:**

- Angola
- Benin
- Botswana
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cabo Verde
- Cameroon
- Chad
- Comoros
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Dem. Rep. of Congo
- Djibouti
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eritrea
- Eswatini
- Ethiopia
- Gabon
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Mauritius
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Rep. of the Congo
- Rwanda
- São Tomé & Príncipe
- Senegal
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- South Africa
- South Sudan
- Sudan
- Tanzania
- Togo
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

**— In 2021 —**

**U.S. Diplomatic Couriers**

based out of **4 regional hubs**, delivered over **500,000 lbs. secure cargo** to the AF region.