

United States Department of State  
*Bureau of Diplomatic Security*

# Protecting the Diplomatic Community





Department of State Publication 9888  
*Bureau of Diplomatic Security 2002*  
*Released April 2002*

# Protecting the Diplomatic Community

**W**hen the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic Relations and Consular Relations were signed, they specifically provided for the extraordinary protection of all foreign officials resident in the United States.

Within the Department of State, the Bureau of Diplomatic Security's Diplomatic Security Service has the primary responsibility to ensure that protection is extended to all foreign officials and their missions across the United States. The Protective Liaison Division provides this protection and related services.

Special agents in Washington and 22 other cities throughout the United States are available at any time to provide liaison services and security assistance to all foreign officials residing in the United States.

As we have learned through tragic experience, terrorism can strike any target, at any time. It is more urgent than ever that we operate in an atmosphere of mutual understanding to actively defend against international terrorism. By establishing and maintaining open lines of communication, we can work together to provide a secure environment for the daily conduct of official business.





## Liaison with Diplomatic Security

In an age of increased security awareness within our society, the means to immediately communicate importance, security-related information to appropriate individuals in the host government is of vital importance to every diplomatic mission operating abroad. In this regard, the Protective Liaison Division maintains the names and contact numbers of at least two foreign mission employees who are designated as security liaison representatives.

As personnel changes occur, foreign missions are urged to provide updates of security contacts to the Protective Liaison Division. This participation and cooperation greatly facilitates the timely exchange of security-related information between foreign missions and the Department of State as the need arises.

It is equally important that similar security liaison be maintained between the Diplomatic Security Service and consular officials serving outside the Washington, DC, area. As much as possible, liaison should occur on a local or regional level. For example,

consulates in Chicago should contact the Diplomatic Security Service's Chicago Office.

Consulates operating in a city that has no DSS office should contact the office nearest them.

*Note: Any foreign mission requiring immediate emergency assistance of any kind should first call the local police, fire, or ambulance service before contacting the Diplomatic Security Service.*

## Vienna Convention

Two provisions of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations are of particular interest to the Diplomatic Security Service:

*(A list of DSS offices in the United States is provided in the back of this pamphlet.)*

### Article 29

“The receiving State shall treat (the person of a diplomatic agent) with due respect and shall take all appropriate steps to prevent any attack on his person, freedom, or dignity.”

### Article 22(2)

“The receiving State is under a special duty to take all appropriate steps to protect the premises of the mission against any intrusion or damage and to prevent any disturbance of peace of the mission or impairment of its dignity.”

In discharging the responsibilities listed above, the Protective Liaison Division stresses that the U.S.

Government will “take all appropriate steps” to protect resident diplomats and their missions. The level of protection will be commensurate with the threat that exists against that diplomatic mission in the United States.

Difficulties have arisen in the past when discussing the level of protection to be afforded a resident foreign official. This is primarily due to differences in interpreting threat levels and deploying police resources. While the threat level against an official may be high in his or her own country, the threat potential in the United States is often quite low.





The Protective Liaison Division is eager to maintain the full confidence and cooperation of all resident foreign officials and to provide the maximum protection possible with the resources at our disposal.

### Responding to the Threat

The level and measure of protective security provided by the U.S. Government to any resident foreign official or diplomatic or consular mission is based primarily on the threat that exists to the mission or the individual while in the United States. The threat level is determined by compiling all available infor-

mation into a threat assessment that is continuously updated for each mission in the United States. These assessments are of vital importance to the Protective Liaison Division in determining the need for any extraordinary protective security measures.

The information contained in the threat assessment is gathered and cataloged by the research analysts of Diplomatic Security's Office of Intelligence and Threat Analysis. Analysts maintain constant contact with all domestic and international intelligence-gathering agencies and

are able to provide comprehensive threat assessments that are both timely and accurate regarding the security of resident foreign officials.

Admittedly, we cannot operate alone if we truly are to provide the safest environment possible for all diplomatic facilities and personnel. Information received from the sending State can be of great assistance in determining that threat level. For this reason, we welcome your participation in the threat assessment process.

Should you need to discuss information relative to your security, the Protective Liaison Division can

be contacted in Washington, DC at (202) 895-3600 during normal business hours. After-hours and emergency notifications can be made 24 hours a day to the Diplomatic Security Service Coordination Center at (202) 647-7277 or 1-800-979-9331.

### Protective Security Assistance

To provide foreign missions with protective security, the Protective Liaison Division works very closely with the U.S. Secret Service Uniformed Division. These uniformed officers provide protection to all foreign missions in the United States 24 hours

a day, 7 days a week. With a sophisticated communications system and a patrol-response capability, officers can respond within minutes to any call for emergency assistance from a foreign mission.

### Uniformed officers are deployed in several ways.

**Fixed posts:** If the threat level against your embassy warrants it, one Secret Service Uniformed Division officer will be assigned to a fixed post outside your mission. This officer is relieved by others at regular intervals to maintain a high level of vigilance. His or her presence assists in creating





a safe area for the entry and departure of diplomats and visitors and acts as a visual deterrent against minor crimes.

However because this posting is highly visible and offers little protection against a determined terrorist, it is not always recommended for every mission. Mobile patrol response is often more effective.

**Vehicular and foot patrols:** Most foreign mission protection is provided by a combination of motor and foot patrols which give close scrutiny at frequent and unpredictable intervals throughout the day and night. Uniformed officers are assigned

to patrol established zones, serving as an effective deterrent to would-be attackers who are unable to determine the times of the frequent visits.

**Mobile response:** The Secret Service Uniformed Division also maintains a 24-hour emergency response capability. Utilizing state-of-the-art law enforcement techniques, officers can respond within minutes to any situation that threatens life or property. Emergency response includes canine teams specially trained in explosives detection.

## Procedural Security Assistance

In addition to providing the protective security measures described so far, the Protective Liaison Division also offers a broad range of additional security services to the diplomatic community.

These include briefings and seminars on security-related topics, specialized training for selected mission personnel, and consultation regarding the physical security of a specific mission and its official residence. The security services provided to a foreign mission are tailored to meet its particular needs.



Among other security-related topics, the Protective Liaison Division can provide security assistance on the following general subjects.

**Personal Security Precautions**  
**Emergency Reaction Plans**  
**Physical Security Standards**  
**Residential Security Standards**  
**Crime Prevention Services**  
**Surveillance Recognition**

Foreign missions interested in receiving assistance on any of these topics are encouraged to submit a formal request through the State Department country desk officer with whom they normally consult. This request should outline particular security concerns and, as much as

possible, list specific objectives. The name of the official who will act as the mission's coordinator for the seminar should be included. Of course, missions should continue to informally discuss any security concerns they have during the routine visits of the Protective Liaison Division officer with whom they normally deal.

Defending against terrorism requires constant vigilance and open communication. By working together in a spirit of mutual cooperation, foreign missions across the United States and the Diplomatic Security Service can create a safe environment in which to conduct diplomatic and consular business.



Atlanta Resident Office  
77 Forsyth Street, Suite 320  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
tel (404) 331-3521  
fax (404) 730-2410

Boston Field Office  
Thomas P. O'Neill Federal Bldg.  
10 Causeway Street, Suite 1001  
Boston, MA 02222  
tel (617) 565-8200  
fax (617) 565-8222

Chicago Field Office  
Ralph H. Metcalf Federal Bldg.  
77 W Jackson Street, Suite 2121  
Chicago, IL 60604  
tel (312) 353-6163  
fax (312) 886-7895

Dallas Resident Office  
Earle Cabell Federal Bldg.  
1100 Commerce Street, Room 762  
Dallas, TX 75242  
tel (214) 767-0700  
fax (214) 767-3544

Denver Resident Office  
755 Parfet Street, Suite 353  
Lakewood, CO 80215  
tel (303) 236-2781  
fax (303) 236-2783

Greensboro Resident Office  
1801 Stanley Road, Suite 320  
Greensboro, NC 27407  
tel (336) 547-4292  
fax (336) 547-4298

Honolulu Resident Office  
PJJK Federal Building  
300 Ala Mona, Room 6-209  
Honolulu, HI 96850  
tel (808) 541-2854  
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Houston Field Office  
Mickey Leland Federal Bldg.  
1919 Smith Street, Suite 870  
Houston, TX 77002  
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fax (713) 209-3470

Los Angeles Field Office  
225 East Temple St., Suite 1273  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
tel (213) 894-3290  
fax (213) 894-0914

Miami Field Office  
Claude Pepper Federal Bldg.  
51 SW First Avenue, Suite 404  
Miami, FL 33130  
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National Passport Center DSS Resident  
Office  
31 Rochester Avenue  
Portsmouth, NH 03801  
tel (603) 334-0519  
fax (603) 334-0652

New Orleans Resident Office  
365 Canal Street, Suite 1130  
New Orleans, LA 70130  
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fax (504) 589-2028

New York Field Office  
1 Executive Drive, Suite 500  
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fax (201) 944-5106

Philadelphia Resident Office  
600 Arch Street, Room 3218  
Philadelphia, PA 19106  
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fax (215) 861-3369

Phoenix Resident Office  
Sandra Day O'Connor U.S. Courthouse  
Suite 435  
401 W. Washington Street, SPC 45  
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fax (602) 364-7845

San Diego Resident Office  
555 W. Beech Street, Room 222  
San Diego, CA 92101  
tel (619) 557-6194  
fax (619) 557-5919

San Francisco Field Office  
235 Pine Street, Suite 900  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
tel (415) 705-1176  
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San Juan Resident Office  
La Torre de la Plaza  
525 F.D. Roosevelt Avenue  
Suite 115  
Hato Ray, PR 00918  
tel (787) 766-5704  
fax (787) 766-5706

Seattle Resident Office  
915 Second Avenue, Suite 3410  
Seattle, WA 98174  
tel (206) 220-7721  
fax (206) 220-7723

St. Louis Resident Office  
Robert A. Young Federal Bldg.  
1222 Spruce Street, Room 9.107  
St. Louis, MO 63103  
tel (314) 539-2721  
fax (314) 539-2746

Stamford Resident Office  
One Landmark Square, Suite 420  
Stamford, CT 06901  
tel (203) 975-0820  
fax (203) 975-0126

Washington Field Office  
2222 Gallows Road, Suite 300  
Dunn Loring, VA 22027  
tel (571) 226-9300  
fax (571) 226-9382

West Los Angeles Satellite Office  
11000 Wilshire Boulevard, Room 1109  
W. Los Angeles, CA 90024  
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