

## DSS Historical Fact of the Day – January 2016

### January 1, 2016 DSS Fact of the Day



January 2000 – The Watch Floor of the DS Office of Computer Security’s Network Monitoring Center in Beltsville, Maryland. Established in 1999 during concerns about Y2K, the center operates around the clock with state-of-the-art cyber security technology to detect and respond to threats to the Department of State's information networks. (U.S. Department of State photo)

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### January 3, 2016 DSS Fact of the Day



January 3, 2003 - DSS assists the U.S. Marshals Service in the arrest of two high-profile fugitives in Europe. Luis Luciano and Lord Sekyi were both Federal fugitives charged with conspiracy to sell and distribute large quantities of illegal drugs in the United States. (U.S. Department of State montage)

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### January 4, 2016 DSS Fact of the Day

January 4, 2011 - Baghdad, Iraq: Unknown individuals fired on members of a U.S. Embassy protective security advance team at the Ministry of Justice, but caused no injuries or damage.

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**January 5, 2016 DSS Fact of the Day**



January 5, 1957: Six Office of Security special agents attend a cornerstone laying ceremony for a planned five-fold expansion of the State Department's main building, today called the Harry S Truman Building, in Washington, DC. (Private Collection)

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**January 6, 2016 DSS Fact of the Day**



Starting in 2004, DSS special agents provided security for Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai while helping to establish and train Afghanistan's new presidential security force following the ouster of the Taliban-led government. (AP/Wide World Photos)

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**January 7, 2016 DSS Fact of the Day**



January 2006 - DS special agents provided protective security for several months for Liberia's President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf while other DS assets trained and stood-up a new presidential security force for the Liberian government following years of civil war in that west African nation. (AP/Wide World Photos)

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**January 8, 2016 DSS Fact of the Day**

On January 8, 2007, a BearCat armored vehicle was damaged by indirect fire against the Regional Embassy Office in Basrah, Iraq. The damage, primarily to the windshield, was caused by fragmentation or secondary fragmentation from the detonation of a high-explosive rocket

warhead. The driver's side windshield received 14 simultaneous impacts, and the passenger side windshield was hit once. Despite the damage to the exterior of the ballistic windshield, the interior of the vehicle was undamaged, and the inner layer of the ballistic windshield was not broken, cracked, or deformed.

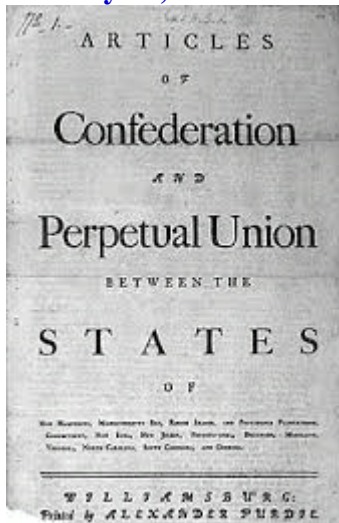
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### **January 9, 2016 DSS Fact of the Day**

1830 – William B. Taylor is hired as the State Department’s first “dispatch agent” at the Port of New York; with an annual salary of \$500, he sorted confidential messages sent overland by horse from Washington, then placed the pouches aboard ships bound for Great Britain, Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America.

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### **January 10, 2016 DSS Fact of the Day**



January 10, 1790 - The Second Continental Congress under the Articles of Confederation establishes the Department of Foreign Affairs, reporting directly to Congress. All U.S. diplomatic correspondence had to be “submitted to the opinion of Congress, and when passed, signed and attested, sent to the office of foreign affairs to be countersigned and forwarded.” The congressional act authorized the use of coded correspondence “if an original paper is of such a nature as cannot be safely transmitted without cypher.” (U.S. Library of Congress image)

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### **January 11, 2016 DSS Fact of the Day**



January 11, 1994 - Aigbe E. Godfrey was convicted of passport fraud and other related charges including bank larceny. DSS special agents, in conjunction with other law enforcement agencies,

discovered 3,800 counterfeit Texas driver's license receipts, a number of check books in various names, 124 blank Savings of America cashier's checks, 300 blank Bank One cashier's checks, a cashier's-check/money-order printing machine, and various other equipment for making fraudulent documents. Godfrey was sentenced to more than 66 years in prison. However, because the sentences ran concurrently, the effective sentence was 75 months in prison and \$12,657 in restitution. (Shutterstock image)

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### January 12, 2016 DSS Fact of the Day



January, 12, 2011 - Baghlan Province, Afghanistan: An unknown individual fired a rocket-propelled grenade at an armored USAID vehicle, injuring the U.S. Embassy driver. (Wikimedia Commons image)

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### January 13, 2016 DSS Fact of the Day



Forty-seven years ago, in 1969, Harry G. Barnes, Jr., Deputy Chief of Mission in Bucharest, Romania, held a classified conference in the Embassy's "bubble." Lou Grob, an officer with Diplomatic Security's predecessor organization, the Office of Security, detected an electronic signal from counter-surveillance equipment and determined that the meeting space had been compromised. The room was searched and security personnel found something resembling the "shoe phone" from the 1960's television series spy spoof "Get Smart!"-- the bug was located in the heel of Barnes' shoe. Barnes' footwear had been taken to a local shoe-repair shop, where someone had installed the bug. (U.S. Department of State photo)

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### January 14, 2016 DSS Fact of the Day



January 1964 – Special Agent William DeFossett, left, receives an award from Office of Security Director Marvin Gentile. DeFossett, a World War II veteran and former New York City police detective, was recruited in 1962 as the first African-American special agent after President John F. Kennedy ordered all federal departments and offices to integrate their staffs. He served until 1985. (U.S. Department of State photo)

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### January 15, 2016 DSS Fact of the Day



January 15, 2010 – DS special agent, right, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection helicopter crew, form a rescue team evacuating 34 young American missionaries from Leogane, Haiti, three days after the devastating January 12, 2010 earthquake. (Photo courtesy of Dale Stroud, [missionfieldimages.com](http://missionfieldimages.com))

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### January 16, 2016 DSS Fact of the Day



Between 1948-1961, Engineers with the Office of Security (SY) -- Diplomatic Security's predecessor organization -- uncovered more than 100 listening devices hidden in U.S. embassies and residences behind the Iron Curtain. In the photo above, SY Director Marvin Gentile displays

a magnetic microphone found at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. (U.S. Department of State photo)

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### **January 17, 2016 DSS Fact of the Day**



Acting on a tip from a Soviet defector in 1964, technical security officers in Moscow discovered 52 hidden microphones in the U.S. Embassy, mostly behind radiators. Another 54 bugs were found in Warsaw. Members of a U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion, or Seabees, were called in to clean up the microphone network. Seabees have been assigned to DS ever since. The State Department Seabee program was made permanent in 1968. The initial group of 27 Seabees has grown to well over 100 today. (U.S. Department of State photo)

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### **January 18, 2016 DSS Fact of the Day**



All equipment destined for U.S. embassy and consulate controlled access areas (CAA) is shipped securely from the United States, sometimes under escort by a diplomatic courier, and stored in a secure area on site. When needed, it is carried into the CAA under the supervision of cleared American guards and installed by workers who are supervised by construction surveillance technicians. This is all done to prevent the introduction of electronic surveillance devices in rooms where classified information will be stored and processed. (U.S. Department of State photo)

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**January 19, 2016 DSS Fact of the Day**



Fourteen years ago, on January 19, 2002: A DS special agent follows behind U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell during a visit to Boudhanath Temple, the largest Buddhist shrine in Nepal. (AP/Wide World Photos)

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**January 20, 2016 DSS Fact of the Day**



Three years ago today, on January 20, 2013: Sixty DSS special agents, 128 uniformed security officers, and many others helped protect 300 diplomats and their spouses during President Barack Obama's inauguration. (U.S. Department of State photo)

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**January 21, 2016 DSS Fact of the Day**



One hundred ninety-seven years ago, in 1819, Secretary of State John Quincy Adams dismissed

a State Department employee for failing to observe security measures, the first known firing for a security-related offense. (Public domain image)

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### January 22, 2016 DSS Fact of the Day



Six years ago today, on January 22, 2010: Hoping for a chance to enter the United States, thousands of Haitian earthquake victims gathered outside U.S. Embassy. (AP/Wide World Photos)

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### January 23, 2016 DSS Fact of the Day



On this day nine years ago, on January 23, 2007: Private Security Contractors Casey Casavant, Steven Gernet, Ronald Johnson, Arthur Laguna, and Shane Stanfield were killed in Baghdad, Iraq, during an attack on their helicopter during a convoy-support mission. (U.S. Department of State photo montage)

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### January 24, 2016 DSS Fact of the Day



Fourteen years ago, in 2002, Diplomatic Security Service special agents ran "Operation Eagle Strike," a highly complex visa fraud investigation involving the illegal issuance of U.S. visas to over 70 unqualified applicants. The possible connection of some of the visa recipients to terrorism prompted a manhunt by Diplomatic Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, resulting in the arrest of more than 50 individuals in the United States and overseas. (U.S. Department of State photo)

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### January 25, 2016 DSS Fact of the Day



On this day 27 years ago, on January 25, 1989, Tingo Maria, Peru: The U.S. Embassy's Regional Security Officer (RSO) was shot and wounded while making a helicopter inspection of U.S. facilities in the Upper Huallaga. The RSO was hit in the leg as the State Department Bureau of International Narcotics Matters helicopters took ground fire from either drug traffickers or the Sendero Luminoso, a Maoist insurgent group, that controlled much of the valley. The RSO's injury was not serious. (CIA World Factbook image)

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### January 26, 2016 DSS Fact of the Day



The Diplomatic Courier skill code “2580” has among the fewest numbers of people working in the Department, with a total of 103 authorized couriers—including the Director, Deputy, and regional and hub courier officers—all of whom are qualified to escort sensitive material for worldwide delivery. (U.S. Department of State photo)

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### January 27, 2016 DSS Fact of the Day



On this day 46 years ago, on January 27, 1970: A DS special agent escorted Prime Minister Harold Wilson of Great Britain and U.S. Secretary of State William P. Rogers at the Main State Department Building, now the Harry S Truman Building. (Private Collection)

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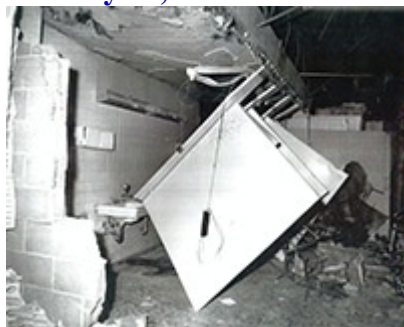
### January 28, 2016 DSS Fact of the Day



On this day 62 years ago, on January 28, 1954: Diplomatic Courier Ward Christensen displays his many passport visas since becoming a diplomatic courier in the late 1940s, traveling as much as a quarter-million miles a year. He later served as chief of the Courier Service's regional offices in Cairo, Manila, and Frankfurt; Regional Security Officer for Scandinavia; Chief of Consular Services in Port-au-Prince; Principal Officer in Salzburg; and Counselor for Consular Affairs in Teheran before retiring in 1976. In Haiti, militants held him and U.S. Ambassador Clinton Knox captive for 20 hours in January 1973 before exchanging them for political prisoners. (DS Records)

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### January 29, 2016 DSS Fact of the Day



On this day 41 years ago, on January 29, 1975: A bomb planted by the Weather Underground Organization extremist group destroyed or damaged 20 offices on three floors of the Harry S Truman Building, the Department of State's main headquarters. No injuries were reported, but one of the damaged offices was that of the chief of the Office of Security (SY) Division of Investigations. (DS Records)

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**January 30, 2016 DSS Fact of the Day**



These 15 U.S. Army Officers were assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Paris in 1918 and served as message couriers for U.S. Expeditionary Forces in France during the First World War, and afterwards for President Wilson and the U.S. delegation at the Versailles peace negotiations in 1919. They were among the early forerunners of today's diplomatic couriers. (DS Records)

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**January 31, 2016 DSS Fact of the Day**



Forty-eight years ago today, on January 31, 1968: U.S. Army Spec. 4 Charles Lincoln Daniel, Spec. 4 Owen Mebust, Cpl. William Sebast, Sgt. Johnie Thomas and Marine Corps Master Sgt. James Marshall died defending U.S. Embassy Saigon from a Viet Cong attack during the Tet Offensive. Shown here is the embassy's Great Seal of the United States which was damaged by enemy fire during the attack. (U.S. Department of State photo)