

Regional Security Officers

Regional Security Officers (RSOs) are the U.S. ambassadors' principal law enforcement and security advisors at each diplomatic post.

 **Located at more than 270 U.S. diplomatic facilities in 170 countries** 

Job Description and Locations

Regional security officers (RSOs) are Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) special agents who manage all security programs and services at U.S. embassies and consulates abroad.

DSS has the largest global presence of any U.S. law enforcement organization, posted in 270+ locations worldwide. The organization is responsible for investigating transnational crimes and for protecting State Department facilities, people, and information.



Host Nation Partnerships

- Serves as the U.S. embassy's law enforcement liaison to the host nation
- Works with foreign police and security organizations to coordinate U.S. law enforcement initiatives, investigations and training
- Coordinates training programs through the International Law Enforcement Academy to train hundreds of police officers from various countries
- Oversees the Antiterrorism Assistance Program, which trains foreign security and law enforcement personnel in hundreds of countries



Personnel Safety

- Prepares embassy or consulate personnel to respond to potential threats
- Helps American citizens file criminal complaints, obtain police reports and deal with the judicial system



RSO Engagements with Americans

- Manages the Overseas Security Advisory Council, a public-private partnership that promotes security through information sharing between the State Department and U.S. private sector
- Oversees the Rewards for Justice program at post, which offers rewards for information that leads to the arrest or conviction of anyone who plans, commits, or attempts international terrorist acts against U.S. persons or property



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Liason, Security, and Exercise Examples

ARSO-I Bucharest targets transnational crime, criminal networks in Romania

The Bucharest assistant regional security officer-investigator (ARSO-I) worked with DSS colleagues, and Romanian and U.S. law enforcement partners to combat visa fraud, human trafficking, human smuggling, and related crimes. In 2019, the partnership identified and arrested members of a foreign-based organized crime group that uses fraudulent U.S. visas to perpetuate human smuggling, trafficking, violent crimes, and international, industrial-scale ATM skimming. ARSO-I Bucharest also worked with Moldavian officials to thwart similar criminal networks seeking to exploit Romanian identification and travel documents.

DSS Regional Security Office in Lomé advances security through IVLP

The RSO at the U.S. Embassy in Lomé, Togo, has fostered relationships with host nation police and security officials by helping to arrange regional and international trainings and professional exchange opportunities. Leadership from Togo's law enforcement and security entities recently participated in an International Visitor Leadership Program opportunity, a professional exchange program that arranges short-term visits to the United States for current and emerging foreign leaders in a variety of fields. Togolese officials met with American counterparts and attended professional meetings that reflect their interests and support U.S. foreign policy goals.

The Diplomatic Security Service helps Japan prepare for the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics

In preparation for the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics, the DSS Olympic Security Coordination Office, composed of DSS Major Events Coordination Unit special agents posted to the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, invited Japanese security and law enforcement partners to observe security operations at the Pan American Games in Lima, Peru. From August 8-12, Japanese partners got a first-hand look at challenges they may face securing the Tokyo Olympics. The transportation plan for the games was of particular interest to the Japanese officials, because mobility in Tokyo was expected to be a challenge during the 2020 Olympics. The delegation was also interested in the exchange of security-related information between the host nation and the U.S. embassy.

U.S. Embassy The Hague Holds Emergency Response Exercise with Dutch First Responders

On April 26, 2018, the U.S. Embassy at The Hague conducted a joint chemical, biological, radiological & nuclear (CBRN) exercise with the Fire Department of The Hague – or Haaglanden in Dutch. It is one of six CBRN decontamination teams integrated with regional fire departments and local police. During the exercise, mission personnel practiced donning emergency respirator hoods and evacuating to the embassy's primary area of refuge. RSO staff hosted walk-throughs of the embassy with Dutch first responder services, allowing the RSO to incorporate those agencies into emergency plans while strengthening the mission's working relationships with its Dutch partners.

For more information about Regional Security Offices or Diplomatic Security, contact your nearest U.S. embassy or consulate or visit: state.gov/m/ds