

THE INFORMER

A newsletter produced by the Regional Security Office, U.S. Embassy, London

Issue 4 – May 2008



“...The greatest single threat is the lack of conviction that a threat exists ”

Lord Radcliffe - 1960

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Introduction

Welcome to the first edition of ‘The Informer’ for 2008

Welcome to the first edition of the Informer for 2008. Special Agent Scott Farquar departed post late last year and the new Regional Security Officer Special Agent David Kidd has now taken his place.



Dave arrives from Diplomatic Security Headquarters in Washington DC, having previously served in Shanghai, Hong Kong, Hanoi and Beijing. Dave will be in post until the summer of 2009 and looks forward to meeting you in the near future.

This issue will focus on OSAC related topics such as various initiatives in improving a safer work environment for the private sector through such as Project Griffin and NYPD Shield.

There is a feature on Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED’s) used in mainland Britain. Additionally we have a feature on DS’s Mobile Security Deployment (MSD) which is often referred to as the 911 of the State Department. We also cover the usual topics on Officer Safety, Crime Corner, CBRNE and Physical Security.

Diplomatic Security has just published its annual review. If 2007 is anything to go by, 2008 is set to be another incredible and record breaking year for us.

Finally, the State Department has issued the much awaited the Country Reports on Terrorism (formerly Patterns in Global Terrorism) of which details can be found on page 18.

Diplomatic Security Annual Year in review

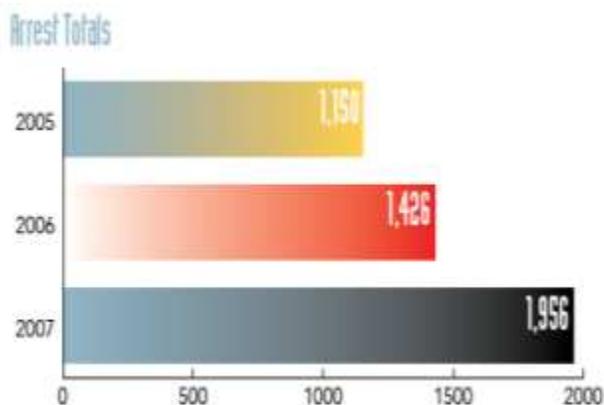
Records break as DS investigations result in nearly 2000 arrests

The DS annual year in review was published on April 3, 2008. Acting Assistant Secretary of State, Gregory Starr, stated the review only highlights some of our accomplishments. Adding, 'Behind each of our successes lies an extraordinary team of men and women who perform outstanding work every day throughout the world. It is because of their dedication and sacrifice that the Bureau of Diplomatic Security can achieve our mission: to protect property and information critical to our national security'.

The report highlighted some new initiatives DS has taken in relation to operating in high threat locations. These include:

- Digital Video Recording systems for incident reporting for protective vehicles
- An Armored ambulance capable of safely entering a 'hot zone' and comfortably transporting the wounded to medical facilities. The first of these vehicles was delivered to the U.S. Embassy in Kabul last August.
- Improved blast protection for armored counter-attack vehicles, known as BearCats that are used for protecting DS motorcades in high-threat environments.

DS has a comprehensive criminal program, 'DS Investigations into passport and visa fraud and related crimes play a vital role in protecting our national security and supporting the U.S. Government's strategic goal of limiting the mobility of transnational terrorist groups organized criminal enterprises'.



In total, DS facilitated a record breaking number of arrests during 2007 to 1,956. Although predominantly for travel document fraud, arrests were made in relation to individuals threatening or harming diplomats. **Working alongside the FBI and Kenyan authorities, several criminals were arrested and prosecuted for the murder of a U.S. Diplomat's wife and mother-in-law.** In another violent carjacking, an Embassy employee's father and brother were also murdered but through the efforts of the RSO, the culprits were apprehended and successfully prosecuted.

DS personnel through Regional Security Offices were active in locating, apprehending and returning 107 fugitives hiding abroad. Among the fugitives were seven who were wanted for murder, 31 wanted for sexual assaults on minors and 14 for narcotic offenses. Another was wanted on charges of child pornography, parental abduction, weapons sales to a terrorist organization, human smuggling and money laundering.

The publication which covers DS's role on protecting people, property, information with a feature on innovation, fiscal ingenuity is available online via the DS website at <http://www.state.gov/m/ds/> or by clicking here:

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/102991.pdf> The publication also pays respect to the DS personnel and associates who have passed away over the past year.

OSAC News

U.S. Embassy to host Spring OSAC Country Council Meeting: May 22, 2008

*Please see the following invite from David Kidd, Regional Security Officer,
U.S. Embassy, London:*

OSAC Members and Associates:

The Spring Meeting of the London Overseas Security Advisory (OSAC) Country Council is scheduled for Thursday, **May 22, 2008**. The meeting will be held in the auditorium of the United States Embassy located at 24 Grosvenor Square, London.

The Country Council meeting will begin at 1:00 PM. Registration and security screening will start at 12:00 Noon and we ask that you arrive no later than 12:30 PM. Coffee and tea with biscuits will be provided prior to the start of the meetings and at the breaks. We anticipate being finished by 5:30 PM with a networking opportunity following until 7:00 PM. Seating will be limited. If you are aware of any OSAC members who have not received this e-mail, please extend this invitation to them

The event will include the presentations on business continuity, physical security, security education and an overview of the global and United Kingdom terrorism situation. We will also update you on plans for structuring London OSAC over the next year. London OSAC President Nick Proctor and I look forward to meeting all of you on May 22.

Sincerely,

David Kidd

David Kidd
Regional Security Officer
American Embassy
24 Grosvenor Square
London, U.K.

UPDATE: Unfortunately this event is now fully booked. However, another conference will take place later this year during the autumn. OSAC members will be informed accordingly. If you are not a member of OSAC but would like to attend, please feel free to e-mail the RSO Investigations Unit at: RSOInvestigationUnit@state.gov

To learn more about the work of OSAC please visit their website:
www.osac.gov/About/index.cfm