

12 FAH-8 H-000 RESIDENTIAL SECURITY PROGRAM

12 FAH-8 H-010 BACKGROUND

(TL:RSP-01; 11-01-2001)

12 FAH-8 H-011 GENERAL

(TL:RSP-01; 11-01-2001)

a. The Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS) is responsible for providing a secure environment for the residences of U.S. citizen direct-hire employees and their eligible family members sent abroad to conduct official business for the U.S. Government at Foreign Service posts. This responsibility includes all agencies that are normally associated or co-located with diplomatic and consular establishments and under the direct control of the chief of mission (COM). The exceptions are employees and eligible family members in those units under command and control of a military area commander. Consular service agents are not considered full-time employees of the U.S. Government and are not authorized residential security protection at U.S. Government expense.

b. A secure residential environment is sought through the acquisition of housing which meets the minimum levels of security based on a post's specific threat ratings. Security of the residential environment may also be enhanced by the use of the post's local guard force (LGF).

c. The regional security officer (RSO) or post security officer (PSO) under the direction of the COM, deputy chief of mission (DCM), or principal officer (PO), has primary responsibility for inspection and validation of the suitability of housing from a security point of view. The addition of selected residential security enhancements may be necessary to achieve the required level of residential protection.

12 FAH-8 H-012 PURPOSE

(TL:RSP-01; 11-01-2001)

The purpose of this Foreign Affairs Handbook (FAH) is to prescribe uniform policies, criteria, and standards for the Residential Security Program (RSP) at Department of State (DOS) controlled residences abroad. It additionally provides guidance on how to initiate and manage a residential security program. The FAH provides reference aids and a detailed discussion of security considerations. A listing that provides a quick reference for the various required security enhancement hardware can be found at 12 FAH-8 Appendix VI.

12 FAH-8 H-013 SCOPE OF DS PROGRAMS AND POLICIES

(TL:RSP-01; 11-01-2001)

The residential security standards in this FAH were approved by the Overseas Security Policy Board (OSPB) and published in 12 FAH-6, *Security Standards Handbook*. The Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986 (Pub. L. 99-399) required the Secretary of State to develop and implement policies and programs, including funding levels and baseline standards, to provide an appropriate level of security to U.S. Government official residences abroad. The Facilities Protection Division (DS/CIS/PSP/FPD) reviews all funding requests and allocates resources and funds to ensure the proper utilization of resources. Projects, which are cost prohibitive, even though they may meet the guidelines for sound security system design, will not be approved. The construction of walls and/or the extensive employment of static guards are items which often require more funding than warranted for a given threat rating.

12 FAH-8 H-014 STANDARDS

(TL:RSP-01; 11-01-2001)

a. The standards for residential security protection described in this FAH, and the expenditure of funds to reach those standards, are based on the political violence (includes inter-state war, civil disorder, coup and insurgency) and crime threat ratings at individual posts. The threat ratings for individual posts are published in DS's Security Environment Threat List (SETL) and are sent out semi-annually by the Office of Intelligence and Threat Analysis (DS/DSS/ITA). A post must show a change in a relevant threat rating for two consecutive reporting periods before changes in residential security upgrades are authorized.

b. Under certain circumstances, a post may seek to implement residential security standards above and beyond those required for the overall threat rating in the SETL before two rating periods have passed. In these situations, the post must coordinate its requests with the DS/CIS/PSP/FPD before taking any action unless an immediate or emergency situation dictates otherwise. If a RSO and/or PSO seeks to make residential security changes permanent, the Emergency Action Committee (EAC) will be required to provide specific justification for the permanent changes to DS/CIS/PSP/FPD for review and approval.

12 FAH-8 H-015 THREAT RATINGS

(TL:RSP-01; 11-01-2001)

Post reporting of existing or potential political violence (inter-state war, civil disorder, coup, or insurgency) and criminal activity is an important element in determining a post's threat ratings. The Department's threat rating for a post establishes the base line against which the standards, guidelines and funding described in this handbook and 12 FAH-6, *Security Standards*, are applied. The threat ratings assigned by the Department are based on the criteria below

12 FAH-8 H-015.1 Low Threat Rating

(TL:RSP-01; 11-01-2001)

A low threat rating exists when:

- (1) The threat for crime is minimal and forced entry of residences and assault of the occupants is not common.
- (2) There is no known political violence or terrorist threat.

12 FAH-8 H-015.2 Medium Threat Rating

(TL:RSP-01; 11-01-2001)

A medium threat exists when:

- (1) The threat for crime is moderate with forced entries and some assaults on residents occur.
- (2) The area has potential for political violence or terrorist activity.

12 FAH-8 H-015.3 High Threat Rating

(TL:RSP-01; 11-01-2001)

A high threat rating exists when:

- (1) The threat for crime is serious and forced entries and assaults on residents are common.
- (2) There is political violence or an active terrorist threat exists.

12 FAH-8 H-015.4 Critical Threat Rating

(TL:RSP-01; 11-01-2001)

A critical threat rating exists when:

- (1) There is a continuous serious threat for crime and forced entries and assaults on residents are common.
- (2) A continually active threat of political violence or terrorist attack exists.

12 FAH-8 H-016 EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

(TL:RSP-01; 11-01-2001)

For residential alarm units and associated security equipment and supplies, posts should check the General Services Administration (GSA) supply catalog as well as local vendors. The GSA supply catalog is available on the Internet at www.fss.gsa.gov/cgi-bin/advwel. Posts should be aware that alarm systems require DS device approval, regardless of source, prior to purchase. For questions concerning DS device approval of alarm systems, contact DS/CIS/PSP/FPD.

12 FAH-8 H-017 THROUGH H-019 UNASSIGNED