

12 FAM 330

RESIDENTIAL SECURITY PROGRAM (RSP)

(TL:DS-78; 08-10-2001)

12 FAM 331 SCOPE AND AUTHORITY

12 FAM 331.1 Policy

(TL:DS-78; 08-10-2001)

a. *The host government's responsibility to protect personnel and their dependents at diplomatic missions is addressed in the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and Optional Protocol on Disputes (1961). Host government support for meeting the residential security needs of U.S. diplomatic missions and consulates abroad is a significant factor in determining the scope and structure of the Residential Security Program (RSP).*

b. *The RSP is designed to complement and enhance the efforts of local authorities to secure a safe residential environment. If the host government is not able or willing to take appropriate steps to protect assigned U.S. personnel and their dependents, and the EAC believes the RSO's existing RSP or proposed enhancements will not provide a satisfactory level of protection, then it may be necessary to withdraw threatened personnel.*

c. *Security standards used to determine the minimum acceptable level of residential security protection for a post's threat ratings are contained in 12 FAH-6, Security Standards. For RSPs, the Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS) uses the standards for the threat rating categories of political violence (includes inter-state war, civil disorder, coup and insurgency) and crime. The security standards were developed in consultation with representatives of other U.S. Government agencies through the Overseas Security Policy Board (OSPB).*

d. *Other factors, such as post-specific threat environment and available funding, are additional elements in determining the overall structure of RSPs.*

12 FAM 331.2 Authority

(TL:DS-78; 08-10-2001)

The legal authority for formation of the Residential Security Program (RSP) is found in Section 102 of the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986 (22 U.S.C. 4802).

12 FAM 332 APPLICABILITY

(TL:DS-78; 08-10-2001)

a. The Department of State's *RSP* is administered by and funded through the Office of Physical Security Programs, Facility Protection Division (DS/CIS/PSP/FPD). The program provides an equitable level of residential protection to all U.S. citizen direct-hire employees and their dependents at Foreign Service posts *when they* occupy residences:

(1) Owned or leased by the Department of State or other U.S. Government agencies; or

(2) Residences where rent is being paid with an allowance received from the U.S. Government.

b. In addition, the program provides the same level of security to *U.S. citizen contract employees assigned to and residing at post at U.S. Government expense*. The costs of *residential security upgrades for these employees* are paid *at post utilizing* contract funds.

12 FAM 333 PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

12 FAM 333.1 RSO and/or PSO Approval

(TL:DS-78; 08-10-2001)

a. RSO or PSO approval *is required* prior to leasing or purchasing any residence to be occupied *by a U.S. citizen direct-hire employee*. The RSO or PSO *will act* as an ex-officio member on the post *Interagency Housing Board (IAHB) to ensure security related issues are addressed during the selection of post residences*. (See 6 FAM 722.2-2, *Post IAHB*.)

b. Prior to requesting lease or purchase approval, the post IAHB or, if appropriate, *USAID executive officer (EXO) for USAID-leased residences*, must *obtain from the RSO or PSO, in writing, confirmation that the prospective residence meets or can be made to meet the required security standards*.

c. If the RSO and/or PSO will not approve a residence because it does not meet and cannot be made to meet the required residential security standards, post should seek other residential properties or request an exception to the standards in accordance with 12 FAH-5 H-200, Exception Requests. (See also 12 FAM 333.3, paragraph (5)). The RSO or PSO should withhold security upgrade expenditures for the unit until an exception has been approved allowing for the lease or purchase.

12 FAM 333.2 Residence Selection

(TL:DS-78; 08-10-2001)

a. Basic to any residential security program are site selection and building design. Many residences provide some protection against criminal intrusion because of protective attributes of the neighborhood or the physical security enhancements at the residential site. No residence, however, is totally secure and each may face some risk of political violence or criminal activity.

b. The RSO or the PSO will maintain current threat information about the relative safety of the post's residential areas. RSOs and/or PSOs will continually share this information with post management and newly-arrived employees as a means for selecting housing for the government leased or living quarters allowance programs.

c. DS has developed residential security standards for both on and off compound housing. The standards are addressed under political violence and crime in 12 FAH-6, Security Standards Handbook. Post management should make every effort to acquire residences that already meet or exceed these standards. Consult DS/CIS/PSP/FPD for guidance not addressed in 12 FAH-6.

12 FAM 333.3 Residential Security Upgrades

(TL:DS-78; 08-10-2001)

a. RSOs and/or designees are required to evaluate all prospective residences for compliance with relevant residential security standards. In evaluating residences, they must adhere to the following priority list in approving purchase or lease of a residence.

(1) Residence meets all applicable residential security requirements for the post's threat ratings and no additional residential security upgrades are required. No further action required.

(2) Although residence does not meet all applicable residential security standards, upgrades will be installed or paid for by owner and/or landlord. No further action required.

(3) *Although residence does not meet all applicable residential security standards, upgrades can be provided by post out of existing residential security program resources. DS/CIS/PSP/FPD approval must be obtained for allocation of resources.*

(4) *Residence does not meet all applicable residential security standards and upgrades cannot be provided by post out of existing residential security program resources. DS/CIS/PSP/FPD approval and funding must be obtained prior to purchase or lease. DS/CIS/PSP/FPD will consider funding cost-effective residential security improvements which are required by security standards for the threat level. In these situations, as a general rule, posts should strive to obtain properties that will be retained in the housing pool over multiple employee tour cycles. However, DS/CIS/PSP/FPD may grant exceptions in a limited number of cases if it determines it is necessary to fund security upgrades even though a residence is unlikely to house U.S. Government personnel for a minimum of five years.*

(5) *Residence does not meet and cannot be made to meet the required security standards, for example, the set-back standards applicable to EMRs, PORs and MSGRs. If no other acceptable alternative is available, post may initiate an exception request by following the applicable procedures in 12 FAH-5 H-200, Exception Requests. Although 12 FAH-5 H-200 applies primarily to official facilities, the guidelines can be used to apply for residential security exceptions. Requests for residential security exceptions should be addressed to DS/CIS/PSP/FPD. No action should be taken to purchase or lease the property until the post is notified that the exception has been officially approved.*

b. *If a disagreement arises at post concerning the security approval or residential security upgrade of a residence, DS/CIS/PSP/FPD should be informed of the dispute and it should be discussed by the post EAC and/or the post IAHB, as appropriate. DS/CIS/PSP/FPD should be informed of any proposed resolution. Under no circumstances should the post lease, purchase or occupy the property for any agency prior to receipt of DS/CIS/PSP/FPD's comments on the proposed resolution.*

12 FAM 333.4 Lease Terminations

(TL:DS-78; 08-10-2001)

If a post cannot renew the existing lease on a residence that was upgraded using U.S. Government funds, it should recover as much security equipment as possible for installation elsewhere. The removal of equipment is the responsibility of the GSO (General Services Office), RSO, PSO, or their designee. It is cost-effective to remove alarm systems and it may also be possible and cost-effective to remove items such as security doors, locks, grilles, and outdoor lights for installation in other residences.

12 FAM 334 POST RESPONSIBILITIES

(TL:DS-78; 08-10-2001)

a. Each post designs and implements its own residential security program in accordance with Department policy, *post threat ratings and 12 FAH-6, Security Standards.*

b. It is the RSO's, PSO's, or their designee's responsibility to determine and document security needs and to request funding from DS/CIS/PSP/FPD. After obtaining approval and funding, the RSO or PSO then requests the GSO to procure *and install* the equipment.

c. Posts are responsible for the installation of all residential security hardware, equipment, and alarms, *prior to occupancy.* RSO and/or PSO should ensure that occupants understand the function and operation of all installed residential security enhancements.

12 FAM 334.1 Program Supervision

(TL:DS-78; 08-10-2001)

The RSO and/or PSO are responsible for program supervision. At posts with a high turnover of residences or a large number of residences, effective program supervision and management may require a part-time or full-time residential security coordinator. The residential security coordinator may be a U.S. citizen (preferred), Foreign Service national (FSN), or a third-country national (TCN), and may be a personal service agreement (PSA) employee or part-time and/or intermittent (PIT) employee. Approval by DS/CIS/PSP/FPD is required prior to the employment of a residential security coordinator.

12 FAM 334.2 International Schools

(TL:DS-78; 08-10-2001)

DS does not fund security requirements for international schools, whether residential or non-residential, that are independent non-U.S. Government institutions. For schools attended by dependents of U.S. Government, direct-hire employees, the RSO may offer to provide professional security advice and unclassified security threat briefings to the school's administration. Upon receiving an official request from the school administration, the RSO should recommend physical and procedural security measures, appropriate for the threat environment, which would improve the school's security (see 12 FAM 422.4).

12 FAM 335 RESIDENTIAL SECURITY STANDARDS AND SURVEYS

12 FAM 335.1 Security Standards

(TL:DS-78; 08-10-2001)

a. *Security standards used to determine the minimum acceptable level of residential security protection for a post's threat ratings are contained in 12 FAH-6, Security Standards. For RSPs, DS uses the standards for the threat rating categories of political violence (includes inter-state war, civil disorder, coup and insurgency) and crime. The security standards were developed in consultation with representatives of other U.S. Government agencies through the Overseas Security Policy Board (OSPB).*

b. *The threat ratings, which establish the baseline for the standards required for a post's RSP, are distributed semi-annually in the Security Environment Threat List (SETL).*

c. *The security standards for residences pertain to all residences of U.S. citizen direct-hire employees assigned abroad under the authority of COMs, including ambassadors' residences, principal officers' residences and Marine security guard residences.*

d. *Cases involving a specific threat against U.S. citizen direct-hire mission employees may dictate implementation of additional residential security measures. In such cases, the RSO and/or PSO, in coordination with the post EAC, should determine what additional residential security measures required and request approval for implementation from DS/CIS/PSP/FPD.*

12 FAM 335.2 Security Surveys

(TL:DS-78; 08-10-2001)

a. The RSO, PSO, or designee must conduct residential security surveys prior to the acquisition of any residence which will be directly or indirectly leased or purchased by the U.S. Government. *The surveys must document all security deficiencies that must be corrected in order to meet the specific security standards for the post's threat ratings. RSO and/or PSO approval for the purchase or lease of a residence is based upon the results of the security surveys. (See also 12 FAM 333.1, RSO and/or PSO Approval.)*

b. Where a post experiences a change in threat *rating* that is sustained for two reporting periods on the *SETL*, the RSO, PSO, or designee *must* review surveys on currently owned or leased residences to determine the required *security* upgrades. Where bringing *existing* units up to *the newly required* security standards would be cost-prohibitive, or impractical, post management must *explore all possible alternatives to achieve the required residential protection.*

12 FAM 336 THROUGH 339 UNASSIGNED