

 An official website of the United States Government [Here's how you know](#) 



[Newsroom](#) [Business](#) [Employees](#) [Job Seekers](#) [Students](#) [Travelers](#) [Visas](#)



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

COUNTRIES & AREAS

BUREAUS & OFFICES

ABOUT



[Home](#) > [Latest Stories](#) > Diplomatic Security Service Miami Field Office hosts local law enforcement for first-ever dignitary protection training

★ ★ ★

Diplomatic Security Service Miami Field Office hosts local law enforcement for first-ever dignitary protection training

DSS ARTICLES

BY ERIC WEINER, DSS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

DECEMBER 13, 2021

Share   



Above, a motorcade takes evasive action when a broken-down vehicle turns out to be a threat, Miami-Dade Public Safety Training Institute, Doral, Fla., Nov. 10, 2021. The exercise is part of DSS Miami Field Office dignitary protection training for local law enforcement partners from the Miami Dade Police Department, City of Miami Police, and the Broward County Sheriff's Office. (U.S. Department of State photo)

Live explosions, simulated motorcade attacks, and Miami Marlins shortstop Miggy Rojas were all part of week-long dignitary protection training in Miami, Fla., Nov. 8-12. Hosted by the **Diplomatic Security Service** (DSS) Miami Field Office, the training included 24 law enforcement partners from the Miami-Dade and City of Miami Police Departments, as well as the Broward County Sheriff's Office.

This is the first time that DSS has hosted dignitary protection training for law enforcement agencies in South Florida. The unique training provided partners with the skills to protect local VIPs and assist DSS with protective security details when diplomats and other foreign dignitaries visit South Florida.

"This training is part of our overall mission to protect the Department of State's people, facilities, and information," said DSS Miami Field Office Special Agent in Charge Pete Kapoukakis. "DSS trains state and local law enforcement to build and strengthen the partnerships we frequently rely on to assist with domestic protective operations."

Training participants learned and practiced the basics of organizing a protective detail as well as the defensive tactics and evasive driving techniques used by DSS and its law enforcement partners to protect dignitaries in the United States and around the world.



A DSS instructor uses a Suburban to create an obstacle for the approaching motorcade (just out of frame) and then simulates an attack using a rocket launcher and machine gun, Miami-Dade Public Safety Training Institute, Doral, Fla., Nov. 10, 2021. (U.S. Department of State photo)

“If a motorcade transporting a dignitary comes under attack while driving on the Florida Turnpike, it is important for the Miami-Dade Police Department to know how our DSS colleagues will react and how we can assimilate it as part of our protocols,” said Lt. Luis Sierra, Miami-Dade Police Special Response Team.

DSS normally conducts dignitary protection training as part of the Law Enforcement Officer Training Program at the U.S. Department of State’s **Foreign Affairs Security Training Center** (FASTC) near Blackstone, Virginia. However, sending officers to FASTC is a cost that many police departments cannot incur, so DSS brings this training directly to state and local law enforcement partners with the assistance of special agents at field offices around the country.

“In June 2021, the DSS Boston Field Office **hosted similar dignitary protection training** for law enforcement partners in New England,” said Miami Training Lead Chad Abate. “Thanks to the Miami Field Office and my fellow FASTC instructors, we had another successful round of training

in Miami this November.”



Training participants escort a role-playing dignitary to safety after a loud explosion is heard while attending a mock diplomatic meeting inside the building, Miami-Dade Public Safety Training Institute, Doral, Fla., Nov. 10, 2021. (U.S. Department of State photo)

The dignitary protection training took place at the **Miami-Dade Public Safety Training Institute**, and participants applied what they learned in a final exercise involving two motorcades making stops at Miami venues including the Miami-Dade Police Department, the Little Havana neighborhood, Bayside Marketplace, and Miami Marlins LoanDepot Park. One of the role-playing dignitaries was none other than Miami Marlins shortstop Miggy Rojas, who took his role seriously while enjoying the added protection and attention from fans (Check out **@statedeptdss on Instagram** to see what Rojas had to say about the training).



Miami Marlins shortstop Miggy Rojas (second from right) plays the part of a dignitary as he exits a Suburban at Bayside Marketplace in downtown Miami to do a bit of shopping and grab a bite to eat under the watchful eyes of his mock protective detail, Nov. 12, 2021. (U.S. Department of State photo)

NBC6, CBS4, and the Miami Herald covered this instrumental training that keeps dignitaries who visit South Florida safe. Click on the images below and view the stories in Google Chrome.



The Marlins' Miggy Rojas plays the part of a dignitary during DSS training for local law enforcement.

(NBC 6 South Florida, Nov. 12, 2021)



Supervisory Special Agent Marcos Cabrera discusses protecting high-profile foreign leaders at the DSS dignitary protection training in South Miami.

(NBC 6 South Florida, Nov. 10, 2021)



DSS Miami Field Office Special Agent in Charge Peter Kapoukakis discusses dignitary protection training.

(CBS 4 Miami, Nov. 10, 2021)



Watch federal agent conduct 'live action' training for VIPs in Miami.

(Miami Herald, Nov. 25, 2021)

TAGS

Diplomatic Security

DSS Articles

Florida



Related Articles

— DECEMBER 6,
2021

Two Peruvian Nationals Plead Guilty to Defrauding Thousands of Spanish-Speaking U.S. Immigrants

[READ MORE](#)

— OCTOBER 4,
2021

Convicted Rapist And Armed Robber Who Assumed Another's Identity For More Than 40 Years Pleads Guilty To Federal Charges

[READ MORE](#)

— SEPTEMBER
22, 2021

Defendants Charged in Connection with Multi-State Racketeering Conspiracy Involving the Forced Labor of Mexican Agricultural H-2A Workers

[READ MORE](#)



U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

White House

USA.gov Office of the Inspector General

Archives Contact Us

FOLLOW US



Privacy Policy

Accessibility Statement

Copyright Information

FOIA

No FEAR Act