History

The U.S. Secret Service was created in 1865 as a bureau of the Treasury Department. At that time, its sole mission was to suppress the counterfeiting of U.S. currency, which was widespread by the end of the American Civil War. Not until 1901, after President William McKinley was assassinated, did Congress authorize the U.S. Secret Service to also protect the President of the United States.

The uniformed branch of the U.S. Secret Service was established in 1922 as the White House Police and was fully integrated into the agency in 1930. The Uniformed Division’s security and law enforcement responsibilities have expanded significantly over the years and remain vital to the mission of the agency.

In March 2003, the U.S. Secret Service was transferred from the Treasury Department to the new U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The Secret Service’s dual mission of protection and investigations remain integral to the department’s efforts to protect the nation from harm.

Mission

The Uniformed Division’s mission is to protect facilities and venues secured for U.S. Secret Service protectees. Throughout its history, the Uniformed Division has accomplished this mission through a tradition of honor, integrity and a commitment to excellence.

Today, the Uniformed Division has grown both in size and scope of responsibility and is mandated by law to provide physical security for the White House Complex and the Vice President’s Residence at the Naval Observatory. It also provides security for the Treasury Department building and foreign diplomatic missions in Washington, D.C. The U.S. Secret Service is seeking capable men and women who can meet the challenges of this mission and help carry on its proud tradition.
Training

A Uniformed Division officer’s training begins almost immediately upon being hired. New appointees undergo intensive training where they must successfully complete the 12-week Basic Police Training course at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Georgia. Then, each officer receives 14 weeks of specialized instruction at the Secret Service’s training facility near Washington, D.C.

The 26 weeks of coursework cover subjects including:

- Police Procedures
- Criminal Law
- Firearms Training
- Emergency Medicine
- Control Tactics
- Laws of Arrest
- Driver Training
- Search and Seizure
- Police and Community Relations
- Physical Fitness Training and Testing

Classroom study is supplemented by on-the-job training. Officers attend advanced in-service training programs throughout their careers.

Duties

Uniformed Division officers control access to protected facilities including the White House and the Vice President’s Residence through a system of fixed posts and foot, bicycle and vehicular patrols, as well as special support programs. These outer perimeter assignments are utilized 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Uniformed Division officers are responsible for magnetometer operations at protected event sites. They detect potentially dangerous items or weapons, and prevent them from being brought into a secured area.
Career Path

Officers may, as their careers progress, be selected to participate in one of several specialized units including:

The **Canine Unit** performs security sweeps and responds to bomb threats and suspicious packages.

Officers in the **Motorcade Support Unit** provide motorcycle tactical support for official movements of motorcades.

The **Emergency Response Team** provides a coordinated tactical response for the White House and other protected facilities.

The **Crime Scene Search Unit** photographs, collects and processes physical and latent evidence.

The **Countersniper Team** utilizes observation, sighting equipment and high-performance weapons to provide a secure environment for protectees.

Officers assigned to the **Office of Human Resources and Training** serve as recruiters as well as firearms and classroom instructors for the U.S. Secret Service at the James J. Rowley Training Center near Washington, D.C.
Qualifications

To be considered for the position of a Uniformed Division officer, applicants must meet the following requirements:

• **U.S. citizenship**

• **Must be at least 21 years of age and younger than 40 at time of appointment**
  
  The maximum age for original appointment may be waived for preference eligible veterans.

• **High school diploma or equivalent**

• **Excellent health and physical condition**

• **Uncorrected vision no worse than 20/60 binocular; correctable to 20/20 in each eye.**
  
  (NOTE: Lasik, ALK, RK and PRK corrective eye surgeries are acceptable eye surgeries for Uniformed Division officer applicants provided specific visual tests are passed. The following are the waiting periods before visual tests are conducted after the surgery: Lasik surgery – three months; PRK – six months; and ALK and RK – one year.)

• **Complete interviews and pass a written test (the Police Officer’s Selection Test)**

• **Complete a background investigation to include driving record check, drug screening, medical and polygraph examinations**

• **Possess a current valid driver’s license**

The **Special Operations Section** handles special duties and functions at the White House Complex, including conducting the daily Congressional and public tours of the White House.
Benefits

• Competitive starting salary
• Overtime is compensated at the rate of time and one-half, or through compensatory time off
• Uniforms and equipment are furnished at no cost to officers
• Employees are eligible for low-cost life insurance
• Employees and their immediate families are eligible for membership in low-cost federal health benefit plans
• Annual leave is earned at the rate of 13 to 26 days per year, based on length of employment. Prior federal civilian and military service is creditable, as authorized
• Sick leave accumulates at the rate of 13 days per year without limit
• Paid holidays
• Reasonable moving expenses paid for out-of-area hires
• Excellent retirement benefits; additional retirement credit is granted for prior military or federal government service, as authorized
• Eligible for participation in Flexible Spending Account Program

Conditions of Employment

Certain demands are required of all Uniformed Division officers of the U.S. Secret Service. These include, but are not limited to:

• Working long hours in undesirable conditions on short notice
• May be required to travel away from home for assignments of varying duration
• Carrying a firearm while performing duties and maintaining firearms proficiency
• Relocating to the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area (reasonable moving expenses paid for out-of-area hires)

Initial appointment to the Uniformed Division officer position is in the excepted service.
For further information about career opportunities with the U.S. Secret Service, please call the U.S. Secret Service Employment Line at 1-888-813-USSS (8777) or TTY 202-406-5390 or visit www.secretservice.gov/join.

The U.S. Secret Service is an Equal Opportunity Employer.