

# ILSA DANIELSON

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## Global Security Operations Professional

Internationally experienced security operations expert, culturally competent leader, and former Division 1 athlete. Dedicated to building and leading evidence-based security strategies that provide unfaltering levels of protection without hamstringing progress or creating barriers to success.

## AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Security Strategy      Program Development      Security Threat Analysis      Security Reporting  
Security Team Leadership      Operational Improvements      Partnership Development      Multi-agency Coordination

## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

**Protect what matters** – Ensure the corporate security function effectively safeguards an organization’s most important assets – its property, profits, interests, and people.

**Build winning teams** – Train and develop high-performing teams that have a shared mission and a clear understanding of how the work they do is fundamental to the organization’s success.

**Forge powerful coalitions** – Unite stakeholders, talent, and the broader security community to identify solutions, move past perceived limitations, and proactively address an organization’s trickiest security challenges.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Special Agent – Diplomatic Security Service (DSS), US Dept. of State** 2009 – Present

**Federal Bureau of Investigation’s (FBI) Joint Terrorism Taskforce** – San Diego, CA (2020 – 2022)

Collaborate with law enforcement and the intelligence community on the FBI’s taskforce to generate and advance investigations that combat and dismantle homegrown violent extremists and terrorist organizations.

**San Diego Resident Office** – San Diego, CA (2017 – Present)

Conduct criminal investigations at the San Diego office and US-Mexico border, the nation’s busiest land crossing. Serve as Protective Liaison Agent-in-Charge for diplomats and high-level officials. Develop and deliver crime, safety, and intelligence reports. Act as Resident Agent-in-Charge in Supervisor’s absence.

- Stepped in to provide security support for overseas executive protection for high-profile Secretary of State details, including several with the President of the US and his security detail.
- Selected by HR/Recruiting to represent Diplomatic Security on interview panels for prospective Special Agent candidates and leverage expertise in enhanced interviewing techniques to strengthen the process.
- Earned praise from senior leadership for ensuring seamless program continuity despite a significant staffing reduction, including rapidly absorbing several cases from departed colleagues.

**Assistant Regional Security Officer-Investigator, US Embassy Baghdad** – Baghdad, Iraq (2016 – 2017)

Served as the sole investigator covering all Mission Iraq criminal investigations (e.g., passport fraud, fugitive returns, internal fraud allegations, etc.). Managed a \$118K budget. Consulted with senior leaders, host nation law enforcement, other US law enforcement agencies, and DS headquarters.

- Established a recurring Law Enforcement Working Group (LEWG) that brought intelligence agency and law enforcement section heads to the table to discuss ongoing threat streams and host nation involvement.
- Strengthened the LEWG by engaging US federal law enforcement, security, and intelligence entities to create a heavily

leaned-upon Embassy platform to unify messaging to DC and identify Mission Iraq goals and initiatives.

- Orchestrated repatriation and safe return to the US of 9 American Citizens isolated in Iraq. Developed SOPs to streamline the complex, interagency operation.

**Assistant Regional Security Officer, US Embassy Abu Dhabi – Abu Dhabi, UAE (2014 – 2016)**

Ensured the security of 390 US employees from 35 Agencies. Supervised a team of local security leaders and a portfolio of security programs, including the Marine Security Guard and residential security program. Developed and delivered security briefings outlining security strategies and insights.

- Spearheaded a project to enhance security by in-housing a \$5M Embassy surveillance detection contract. Managed all aspects of the conversion, including interviewing, hiring, training, and relocating personnel.
- Developed a comprehensive new strategy for personnel recovery. Updated in-country hospital surveys and US Dept. of Defense (DoD) assets to enhance post's emergency response and contingency planning.
- Volunteered to support a large-scale joint training exercise at the US Embassy in Muscat, Oman – a complex exercise designed to simulate joint defenses against a large-scale terrorist attack.

**DSS Special Agent / Criminal Investigator, Criminal Fraud Investigations – Rosslyn, VA (2011 – 2014)**

Investigated the department's most sensitive and complex internal corruption and global passport and visa fraud cases. Partnered with high-level US government and NGO representatives. Provided protective security and coordinated security operations for critical government and private-sector engagements.

- Led a team of 4 to travel to a US Consulate in Mexico to eliminate a 6-month security investigation backlog. Optimized systems and trained new personnel to clear the backlog and minimize the potential for future issues.
- Coordinated security for the first ever Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) for Consulate Basrah, providing business executives a forum to address security issues related to conducting business in the region.
- Served as Lead Advance for the UN General Assembly in New York and managed a team of 8 Special Agents and Chicago Police Detectives to plan and execute executive protection details at the G8 Summit in Chicago.

**DSS Special Agent, Houston Field Office – Houston, TX (2009 – 2011)**

Planned, developed, and conducted criminal investigations of passport and visa fraud. Provided protective security for Secretary of State Clinton and foreign dignitaries. Coordinated with foreign stakeholders and local law enforcement. Managed a \$1M budget and inventory of government vehicles and resources

- Leveraged culturally competent leadership skills to coordinate security operations with in-country stakeholders and ensure the safety of Secretary Clinton on numerous overseas trips (i.e. Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, etc.).
- Performed a comprehensive analysis of security operations at US Embassy Baghdad. Recommended operational enhancements and a force reduction to save \$2M without compromising security readiness.

## **VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

**Volunteer Instructor – LEAD – San Diego, CA**

2019 – Present

Facilitated the 8-week law-related elementary education program. Teach under-privileged 5<sup>th</sup> graders life lessons designed to protect their futures by instilling how the decisions they make today can affect their lives forever.

## **EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS**

BA, Double Major in Criminal Justice and English Literature (Minor, Spanish) – Indiana University

2007

Top Secret Security Clearance – US Dept. of State

Active

## **SELECT PROFESSIONAL TRAINING**

Overseas Crisis Management and High Threat Operations

2017

Spanish for Diplomatic Security

2016

Advanced interviewing for Law Enforcement

2011