



## OFFICE OF PROTECTION SERVICES: Fact Sheet

*The Office of Protection Services (OPS) provides protection and security services and operates programs for security management and criminal investigations at the Smithsonian Institution (SI) facilities including 19 museums and the National Zoo and 9 research facilities on and near the National Mall in Washington, D.C., in New York City and in Panama. OPS provides technical assistance and advisory services to SI bureaus, offices, and facilities. It serves SI employees and volunteers, and more than 25 million visitors each year.*

### History of OPS

The protection and security services for the SI began in 1846 when a "night watchman" for the United States National Museum was hired. The position required the person to manage the public in the galleries and library of the Smithsonian Castle, keep up the building in adverse and cold weather, and perform additional duties such as the management of coal deliveries, water barrels for fighting fire, and errands for the Secretary. The duty hours were 12 hours a day, seven days a week, for a salary of \$30.00 a month. After a fire in the East end of the Castle in January, 1864, the Board of Regents justified the hiring of a second watchman.

As new buildings and facilities were added, so were additional security personnel. By 1943, the force had grown to 71. In 1960 the security force totaled 120, and by 1964 it was up to 210. What is now known as the Office of Protection Services was formed in 1973 and today has over 700 employees.

### OPS Organization and Functions

The Office of Protection Services is under the direct supervision of a Director appointed by the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. The Secretary, SI has delegated to the Director, OPS the authority (under Section 46 of Title 20 and Section 6306(a) of Title 40 of the United States Code), to designate employees as special police to perform necessary duties in connection with the policing of the buildings and grounds of the Smithsonian Institution. The Director advises the Secretary, and Under Secretaries, and the SI museum and research facility Directors in matters relating to security of facilities and collections

Through coordination with other Smithsonian offices and units, OPS executes security and disaster/emergency management programs, develops security management policy and standards, and provides security planning and protection for facilities and areas under their control. This generally includes SI-owned and leased facilities in the Washington metropolitan area, Virginia, Maryland, New York City metropolitan area, and Panama, and includes supervision and funding for contract guard services at select facilities. For all other SI-owned and leased facilities, OPS provides policy guidance, security assistance, risk assessment and mitigation recommendations, and other specially arranged consultation or protection services.

The Office of Protection Services is divided into an Operations Office, and a Physical Security and Business Operation Office.

### Operations

The OPS Operations oversees the security/police operations in the Smithsonian facilities that display exhibitions to the public, collection storage areas and leased facilities, as well as Smithsonian research facilities around the world and coordinates and provides liaison with all outside agencies, administers the issuance of the perspective reports, and directs all alarm reporting and response functions.

The OPS Security Units/NZP Police Department provide essential protection and security functions to each museum complex and the National Zoological Park while maintaining consistency and compliance with established OPS policies; plus continually maintain liaison with the staff of the respective Smithsonian Unit.

For more information please visit <http://www.ops.si.edu>



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The Office of Protection Services (OPS) ensures the safety and security of the staff, visitors, and National Collections of the Smithsonian Institution, while permitting an appropriate level of public access to collections and properties.

### Physical Security and Business Operations

The Deputy Director serves as the head of the Headquarters Staff, and is responsible for oversight of two OPS Divisions: the Administration Division and the Personnel and Physical Security Division. These two divisions provide staff support activities for all OPS staff and facilities.

The Administration Division includes:

- Human Resource
- Financial Management
- Supply
- Property Management
- Contracting functions
- Audits and Compliance
- The Parking Office

The Physical Security Division (OPS/PPSD) is responsible for the personnel security; ID issuance; and the design, construction, maintenance, and administration of all physical security equipment and measures for the Smithsonian Institution.

PPSD is responsible for:

*Electronic Security Systems:*

Intrusion Detection • Access Control • CCTV

*Communication:*

Intercoms • Radio Systems (in conjunction with OCIO) • Mass Notification/Emergency Voice Systems

*Door Hardware:*

Egress hardware • Locks and keys

*Anti-terrorism Measures:*

Vehicle Barriers • Blast Mitigation • Chemical/Biological/Radiological Threat Mitigation

*Exhibit Security:*

Case design • Intrusion detection

*Special Barriers:*

Doors • Walls • Grating • Glazing

*Personnel Security and ID Management:*

All Background Investigations, Adjudication and SI Credential issuance

Additionally, PPSD:

Acts as the liaison between the Office of Planning, Design and Construction (OPDC) to ensure the implementation of OPS policies, procedures and security programs are incorporated into new projects and facilities (owned and leased). This also includes supporting the space planning for OPS spaces such as administrative offices, control rooms, locker rooms, etc.

Develops and maintains all SI security design and construction criteria and standards for both owned and leased facilities. Reviews all SI design and construction projects for the impact on OPM mission and to ensure OPS policies and procedures and SI security requirements are being adequately supported.

Manages the SI Security Risk Management Program and performs risk and vulnerability assessments (in conjunction with OPS Operations) of SI facilities and assets.

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