



Protective Travel Expenditures

September 28, 2018

Fiscal Year 2018 Report to Congress



Homeland
Security

U.S. Secret Service

Message from the Director

September 28, 2018

I am pleased to submit this report, “Protective Travel Expenditures,” which has been prepared by the U.S. Secret Service (USSS). This document has been compiled pursuant to language set forth in the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Appropriations Act (P.L. 115-141).



Travel-related expenditures account for roughly 20 percent of the agency’s nonpay discretionary budget each year and include, but are not limited to, costs associated with protective travel, criminal investigations, and permanent change of station reassignments. Of these categories, protective travel is the largest and most irregular cost driver for USSS.

In FY 2017, USSS provided protection for 7,709 travel visits, which is defined as any instance that an individual protectee spends time within the jurisdiction of a single USSS field office, other than the protectee’s home district. While this number of travel visits was 9.85 percent lower than that of FY 2016, a presidential campaign year, it is higher than the previous 3 fiscal years. In the first 3 quarters of FY 2018, there have been 17.74 percent fewer travel visits compared to the equivalent period of time in FY 2017. USSS forecasts that protective travel will increase significantly in the last quarter of FY 2019 through the first quarter of FY 2021 due to presidential campaign activities.

Pursuant to congressional requirements, this report is being provided to the following Members of Congress:

The Honorable Kevin Yoder
Chairman, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairman, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Jon Tester
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

Inquiries relating to this report may be directed to me at (202) 406-5700.

Sincerely,



Randolph D. Alles
Director
U.S. Secret Service

Executive Summary

One of the greatest challenges in the formulation of USSS's budget is determining the amount of protective travel that the agency will be required to undertake in a future fiscal year. In addition to the highly variable and unpredictable schedules of USSS protectees, unplanned National Special Security Events and unforeseen spikes in international travel can have a significant impact on the agency's travel budget projections.

Each time a protectee schedules travel out of his or her home district, a multiday sequence of preparatory events begins prior to the actual travel date. These protective advance activities involve assessing the sites to be visited and determining the necessary resources required. At a minimum, advance activity involves working with federal, state, local, and/or international law enforcement partners to coordinate motorcade routes, control traffic, and ensure airspace and venue security. While increased protective travel directly affects the protective divisions and Uniformed Division, USSS special agents assigned to field offices are also involved, providing local knowledge, leveraging relationships with state and local law enforcement, and supplying additional labor.

This report fulfills the requirement to detail "expenditures of funds for the purpose of providing protection in accordance with each of the categories listed in 18 U.S.C. 3056(a) during the course of any travel." USSS currently provides fulltime protection for 32 statutory protectees, including the President, Vice President, their immediate families, former Presidents, their spouses, and any minor children of a former President who are under 16 years of age. By statute, USSS also provides temporary protection to visiting heads of state and foreign governments. The number of these visits varies from year to year but is especially high during the opening period of the General Debate of the United Nations General Assembly each September.

This report does not include travel costs associated with protecting the National Security Advisor, Secretary of DHS, Secretary of the Treasury, White House Chief of Staff, or other protectees who receive USSS protection through Executive Memoranda.

In compiling this report, USSS reviewed protective travel expenditures for the period beginning on October 1, 2017, and ending on June 30, 2018. These data points were derived from the agency's Financial Repository for Enterprise Data by searching protectee categories as established in 18 U.S.C. 3056(a) in the travel object class. The travel object class (2100) consists of: travel and transportation of USSS employees during the course of protective travel, hotel costs, per diem, automobile rental, and other miscellaneous travel expenses.



Protective Travel Expenditures

Table of Contents

I.	Legislative Language	1
II.	Background.....	2
III.	Data Report	4
IV.	Analysis/Discussion.....	5
V.	Conclusion	6
VI.	Appendix: Abbreviations.....	7

I. Legislative Language

This report has been compiled pursuant to the legislative language set forth in the Joint Explanatory Statement that accompanies the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Appropriations Act (P.L. 115-141). The Joint Explanatory Statement states:

In lieu of House report language on Secret Service protection operations, the USSS is directed to submit a report to the Committees, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Act, and annually thereafter, detailing expenditures of funds for the purpose of providing protection in accordance with each of the categories listed in 18 U.S.C. 3056(a) during the course of any travel.

II. Background

This report fulfills the requirement to detail “expenditures of funds for the purpose of providing protection in accordance with each of the categories listed in 18 U.S.C. 3056(a) during the course of any travel.” Subsection 3056(a) states that the U.S. Secret Service (USSS), under the direction of the Secretary of DHS, is authorized to protect the following individuals:

(1) The President, the Vice President (or other officer next in the order of succession to the Office of the President), the President-elect, and the Vice President-elect.

(2) The immediate families of those individuals listed in paragraph (1).

(3) Former Presidents and their spouses for their lifetimes, except that protection of a spouse shall terminate in the event of remarriage.

(4) Children of a former President who are under 16 years of age.

(5) Visiting heads of foreign states or foreign governments.

(6) Other distinguished foreign visitors to the United States and official representatives of the United States performing special missions abroad when the President directs that such protection be provided.

(7) Major Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates and, within 120 days of the general Presidential election, the spouses of such candidates. As used in this paragraph, the term “major Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates” means those individuals identified as such by the Secretary of Homeland Security after consultation with an advisory committee consisting of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the minority leader of the House of Representatives, the majority and minority leaders of the Senate, and one additional member selected by the other members of the committee. The Committee shall not be subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. 2).

(8) Former Vice Presidents, their spouses, and their children who are under 16 years of age, for a period of not more than six months after the date the former Vice President leaves office. The Secretary of Homeland Security shall have the authority to direct the Secret Service to provide temporary protection for any of these individuals at any time thereafter if the Secretary of Homeland Security or designee determines that information or conditions warrant such protection.

During this reporting period, USSS currently provides fulltime protection for 32 statutory protectees, including the President, Vice President, their immediate families, former Presidents, their spouses, and any minor children of a former President who are under 16 years of age. By statute, USSS also provides protection to heads of state and foreign governments visiting in the United States. The number of foreign dignitaries requiring protection varies from year to year, with the vast majority visiting during the opening period of the annual General Debate of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York City each September. The statute also affords USSS protection for “official representatives of the United States performing special missions abroad” when directed by the President. At the direction of the President, USSS

currently provides protection to the United States Trade Representative and Deputy Secretary of DHS when they are outside of the United States on official travel.

Travel costs related to protecting the President constitute the single largest portion of protective travel costs, as protective travel expenses are driven primarily by the number of USSS special agents, Uniformed Division officers, and support staff required for a visit. To secure a domestic visit in which the President arrives and departs on the same day requires a protective advance involving agents from the Protective Intelligence Division, the Office of Technical Development and Mission Support, the Counter Surveillance Division, the Critical Systems Protection Division, and the Uniformed Division, all of whom are led by a lead advance agent from the Presidential Protective Division. This team of advance personnel works with agents from the local field office to create a security plan to address the specific needs and requirements of the venue and event.

In addition to the personnel who develop the Presidential protection security plan, many more USSS special agents and Uniformed Division officers will travel to the event location to carry out that plan. Post-stander agents, counterassault teams, countersnipers, countersurveillance teams, motorcade route security personnel, Hazardous Agent Mitigation Medical Emergency Response teams, magnetometer teams, and air security personnel all must travel to the event site ahead of or simultaneously with the President's arrival. With the exception of post-standers, the majority of the individuals who compose these teams are based in the National Capital Region. When possible, post-standers come predominantly from the local and regional field offices closest to the event. However, as events have grown in size and complexity, and the tempo of travel has increased, post-standers increasingly are pulled from field offices throughout the country, incurring substantial travel costs.

The exact size and composition of the advance team and personnel deployed for an event will vary considerably depending on the protectee, type of event, expected attendance, location, length of the visit, and known threats. Furthermore, labor requirements and travel costs increase dramatically anytime protectees remain overnight away from their permanent residence. The cost of transportation, lodging, rental cars, and per diem for protective travel is a significant part of the USSS budget and one that is likely to increase as the President and the other protectees maintain robust domestic and international travel itineraries.

As noted in the Strategic Context of the FY 2019 Congressional Justification, USSS's performance measure for protective travel gauges the percent of travel visits where protectees arrive and depart safely. The performance target is always 100 percent, which USSS achieved in FY 2017, the most recent fiscal year captured. With respect to estimating protective travel resource requirements, the performance measure identifies the variance between the initial request for protective resources and the final approved resources. USSS achieved a 96 percent rating in FY 2017, the last fiscal year captured, which exceeded the target of 85 percent.

III. Data Report

To fulfill the requirements of this report, USSS reviewed protective travel expenditures for the period beginning on October 1, 2017, and ending on June 30, 2018. These data were derived from the agency’s Financial Repository for Enterprise Data (FRED) by searching protectee categories as established in 18 U.S.C. 3056(a) in the travel object class. The travel object class (2100) consists of: travel and transportation of USSS employees during the course of protective travel; hotel costs; per diem; automobile rentals; and other miscellaneous travel expenses.

Protective Travel Expenditures by Protectee Type, 10/1/2017-6/30/2018

18 U.S.C. 3056(a) Protectees	Number of protectees	Cost of protective travel
The President	1	\$13,471,315
The President’s immediate family	17	\$5,528,307
The Vice President	1	\$9,877,784
The Vice President’s immediate family	3	\$464,761
The President-elect	---	---
The President-elect’s immediate family	---	---
The Vice President-elect	---	---
The Vice President-elect’s immediate family	---	---
Former Presidents and their spouses	9	\$5,832,361
Children of a former President who are under 16 years of age	0 ¹	---
Visiting heads of foreign states or foreign governments	164	\$695,774
Other distinguished foreign visitors to the United States when the President directs that such protection be provided	---	---
Official representatives of the United States performing special missions abroad when the President directs that such protection be provided	0 ²	---
Major Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates and, within 120 days of the general presidential election, the spouses of such candidates	---	---
Former Vice Presidents, their spouses, and their children who are under 16 years of age	---	---
Total	195	\$35,870,302

Source: USSS FRED

¹ For this reporting period, two children of a former President who are older than 16 years of age were authorized protection via Executive Memoranda.

² For this reporting period, the U.S. Trade Representative and the Deputy Secretary of DHS were authorized protection via Executive Memoranda for official travel abroad.

IV. Analysis/Discussion

As of June 30, 2018, total protective travel expenditures are on pace when compared with recent noncampaign years. Approximately 10 percent of the travel budget typically is expended in the last month of the fiscal year during the annual opening period of the General Debate of the UNGA.

Protective travel is expected to increase significantly in FY 2019 as the 2020 Presidential campaign season begins. The FY 2019 pre-campaign season will require travel as personnel attend Protective Detail Training before the campaign begins and prepare for the national party conventions. Based on past experience, USSS also anticipates an increase in the volume and tempo of protectee travel during this time period.

V. Conclusion

Protective travel, which accounts for approximately 20 percent of the agency's nonpay discretionary budget each year, is the largest and most irregular cost driver for USSS. One of the greatest challenges in the formulation of USSS's budget is determining the amount of protective travel the agency will be required to undertake in a future fiscal year.

As protective events have grown in size and complexity and the tempo of travel has increased, post-standers increasingly are pulled from field offices throughout the country, incurring substantial travel costs. The exact size and composition of the advance team and personnel deployed for the event will vary considerably depending on the protectee, type of event, expected attendance, location, length of the visit, and known threats. Furthermore, labor requirements and travel costs increase dramatically anytime protectees remain overnight away from their permanent residence.

The cost of transportation, lodging, rental cars, and per diem for protective travel is a significant part of USSS's budget and one that is likely to increase as the presidential campaign begins. As such, USSS forecasts that protective travel will increase significantly in the last quarter of FY 2019 through the first quarter of FY 2021.

VI. Appendix: Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
FRED	Financial Repository for Enterprise Data
FY	Fiscal Year
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
USSS	U.S. Secret Service