

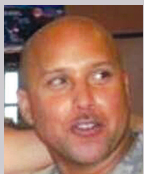
U.S. Secret Service security lapse scandal

Secret Service Director Julia Pierson is facing scathing criticism after a knife-wielding intruder got into the White House. It follows at least 23 other security lapses by the agency in recent years



■ **Sep 30, 2014:** Pierson (above) testifies at House Oversight and Government Reform Committee hearing on ***White House Perimeter Breach: New Concerns about the Secret Service*** on Capitol Hill

PROMINENT SECURITY LAPSES



■ **Sep 19, 2014:** Omar Gonzalez (left) allegedly climbs White House fence, sprints across lawn, overpowers Secret Service officer and runs about 40 metres into East Room (often used for presidential receptions), before being tackled by security staff

■ **Sep 16:** Secret Service fail to notice private security agent with gun – and three prior convictions for assault and battery – sharing elevator with President Obama while on visit to Atlanta

■ **Aug 7:** Toddler breaches White House security by squeezing through perimeter fence,

sending officers scrambling to intercept him. Agency spokesman jokes: “We were going to wait until he learned to talk, to question him”

■ **Mar 23:** Secret Service agent found passed out drunk in hall of hotel in Amsterdam, where he is helping prepare for impending presidential visit. Three agents sent home in shame

■ **Apr 11, 2012:** More than dozen Secret Service agents in Cartagena, Colombia – there to prepare for Obama’s arrival at summit meeting – caught by local police in their hotel soliciting prostitutes. Ten agents are sacked or retired



■ **Nov 11, 2011:** Oscar Ortega-Hernandez opens fire on White House with semi-automatic rifle. Guards mistakenly conclude shots come from feuding street gangs.

Four days later housekeeper discovers bullet holes – seven of them

■ **Nov 24, 2009:** Couple sneak into White House state dinner for Indian prime minister. Tareq and Michaela Salahi shake hands with Obama and pose for photos. Couple were publicising television show

