

# Antiterrorism

## Individual Awareness Tips

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**1. Purpose:** this paper provides individual awareness tips and personal protection measures to help protect Soldiers, DA civilians, and their family members from potential terrorist acts.

### **2. Background:**

- The threat of terrorists attacking our Army communities is real. Terrorists can strike anytime and anywhere.
- Antiterrorism is the defensive measures used to reduce the vulnerability of individuals, information and facilities to terrorist acts.
- The awareness information provided below can help reduce an individual's risk of becoming a terrorist target.

### **3. How Terrorists Identify and Select Targets.**

- To begin with, consider ways a person might become a victim of a terrorist attack. Three specific examples to keep in mind include:
  - ❖ **Location:** Terrorists may target locations frequented by Americans (such as military installations or facilities, or certain hotels, apartment buildings, public transportation centers and nightclubs frequented by Americans). Individuals should maintain heightened awareness in these locations and leave immediately if they observe suspicious behavior or activity.
  - ❖ **Association:** Terrorists may focus pre-operational surveillance or actual attacks on obvious American tourists or personnel associated with the U.S. military. When possible, avoid disclosing your U.S. affiliation. When overseas, try to blend in with the local populace.
  - ❖ **Opportunity:** Terrorists look for "soft targets." A soft target is a person, information, or facility in which the terrorist perceives they have good chance of a successful attack and a low risk of interference by security forces. To minimize opportunity, individuals should maintain vigilance, practice good

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personal security habits, and alert the proper authorities of suspicious behavior.

- What can individuals do to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of terrorism? Individual protection and personal safety begins with a **proactive mind-set** about the security environment where you live, work, go to school, and travel. Personal security habits which will help prevent you from becoming a victim include understanding the risks associated with your activities and locations, and taking proactive measures to enhance your own safety.

#### **4. Fundamentals of Individual Protection include:**

- **General Awareness Tips.**

- Maintain situational awareness of your surroundings at all times. Pay particular attention to activity happening around you in order to identify anything unusual. If necessary, leave the area and report suspicious activity or behavior to local authorities.
- Protect your personal information at all times. Do not reveal details of your personal life (such as where you live, work, family members, your association with the U.S. military, email address or phone numbers) to anyone you don't know and trust.
- Do not discuss personal information or military missions in public, on the telephone or on the internet. Take extra precaution with social media networks (such as Facebook, Twitter, and blogs) -- avoid posting or providing personal information. Criminals and terrorists are known to use these forums for open source information gathering and for recruitment and these media do not provide "secure" communications.

- **Individual Awareness at Home:**

- Basic security begins with the home. Make sure your door and window locks

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and exterior lighting function properly. Children should keep doors and windows locked when home alone.

- Participate in a neighborhood watch program to establish a shared responsibility for the safety and security of your local community.
- Be prepared for an emergency that may require your family to “shelter-in-place” or relocate on short notice. Make a family emergency plan and ensure all family members understand what to do in each of these scenarios.
- **Individual Awareness at Work:**
  - Know the emergency evacuation procedures for the place where you work.
  - Know the bomb threat procedures and how to report threats to local law enforcement or security authorities.
  - Understand what to do in an “active shooter” threat scenario.
- **Individual Awareness while Travelling:**
  - Maintain a “low profile.” Try to blend in with the local populace through how you dress and your appearance -- especially when traveling abroad. Know the locations of safe havens and carry with you the emergency telephone numbers.
  - Understand the culture where you are traveling and learn basic survival phrases (such as “I need a police officer” and “I need a doctor”).
  - Avoid civil disturbances or demonstrations of any kind – these events can turn violent with little to no advanced warning.
  - Public venues with large crowds present lucrative terrorist targets. Understand the risks of attending public venues based on the history of

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terrorist attacks in your area and security provided at the event.

- Never travel alone; always travel in groups of two or more. Think ahead and choose safe travel modes and routes.

#### **4. Where to Find Additional Information:**

- Antiterrorism individual awareness training is available through the unit or installation Antiterrorism Officer. The training includes basic knowledge of the terrorist threat pertaining to air and ground travel; security at government facilities, hotels, and home; vehicle bomb threats; and hostage survival tips.
- Supporting information, products and tools are available on the Army's Antiterrorism Enterprise Portal. Unit Antiterrorism Officers have access to and can share these resources across the Army community.
- CJCS Guide 5260, Antiterrorism Personal Protection Guide: A Self Help Guide to Antiterrorism, 14 October 2005. This guide offers useful information about terrorist threat awareness and personal protection measures.
- PC 5260, Antiterrorism Individual Protective Measures (wallet card), October 2001. This card is a great reference tool to remind family members of basic security measures.