

## OPSEC

OPSEC threats exist across a wide range of collection platforms. To help reduce vulnerability:

- ◆ Ensure all personnel, to include Soldiers, Civilians and Family members, understand they are not authorized to speak publicly, post information to the internet or other venues, or publicize any information concerning operations/deployment/exercise until formally announced by Headquarters, Department of the Army and/or USAREUR-AF.
- ◆ Do not discuss exercises or operational information in public areas such as chat rooms, social media, hotels, airports, trains and rest stops.

## AT Communications Plan while Traveling

**Create an easily understood communication plan.**

- ◆ Have a plan to make contact if separated.
- ◆ Consider a plan to call or e-mail a friend/relative in case of an emergency.
- ◆ Create a quick reference/contact card.
- ◆ Conduct a Google reconnaissance to identify rally points in the event you are separated from your group.
- ◆ Identify safe havens.
- ◆ Always stay tuned to local media and other available information resources.

Name	Information	Number
Medical Emergency		
Police Emergency		
Emergency Services		
U.S. Embassy Emergency after Hours		
MP Desk		
Rally Point (s)		

## THREAT SITUATION

(UNCLASSIFIED) As Europe enters the holiday season, the threat of inspired terrorist attacks remains high. This season extends from mid-November 2024 to mid-January 2025, ending with Orthodox New Year. Events such as Quran desecrations and perceived anti-Islamic sentiments, including those tied to the conflict in the Middle East, have heightened the risk of terrorist attacks. There is no identified, direct threat to U.S. facilities or personnel; however, attacks against public venues, including but not limited to European holiday markets, public gatherings, and places of religious observance, pose an enduring collateral threat to U.S. DoD-affiliated personnel. Inspired terrorist attacks are an enduring challenge for police and intelligence agencies, as lone actors tend to favor soft targets and use rudimentary tactics such as vehicle ramming or knife attacks. The difficulty in predicting and countering these threats necessitates DoD personnel (DoD military, DoD civilians, DoD sponsored dependents, and DoD sponsored contractors) maintain vigilance and take appropriate precautions to detect and defend against terrorist activities. In addition to changes in European nations' security postures, other influencing developments, such as Violent Extremist Organization's violent extremist organization (VEO) propaganda that encourages attacks against Jewish, Christian, and Western people could shape patterns of terrorism and targeting opportunities in the Area of Responsibility (area of responsibility (AOR). Tensions related to the conflict in the Middle East may further escalate the threat to Israeli and Jewish interests during Hanukkah (25 December 2024 to 02 January 2025).

### State Department Travel Advisory Levels

1. Exercise normal precautions
2. Exercise increased caution
3. Reconsider travel
4. Do not travel

## USAG RP PROTECTION

**Don't become an easy target or target of opportunity**

### Travel Awareness



## USAG RP Security Office

**Ms. Tonya S. Sanders**

**Mr. Dennis L. Mathis**

**DSN: 541-3028/3013 or 531-2746**

**COMM: +49(0)611-143-541-3028/3013**

**COMM: +49(0)611-143-531-2746**

## USAG RP Antiterrorism Office

**Ms. Emily M. Roemer**

**DSN: 541-3003/3031**

**COMM: +49(0)611-143-541-3003/3031**

## Counterintelligence

Traveling abroad? Planning on taking your technology with you? Here are a few tips recommended by the Director of National Intelligence.

- ◆ **Privacy doesn't exist for you:** You should have no expectation of privacy, especially in internet cafes, hotels, offices or public places.
- ◆ **You are a target:** U.S. personnel traveling abroad may have a higher chance of not only being observed by state-sponsored intelligence collection or surveillance, but also targeted by terrorists.
- ◆ **Location, Location:** Security services (and many apps) can track your location electronically.
- ◆ **Malware, the gift that keeps on giving:** Text messages or video messages with links—Don't Click!
- ◆ **Pre-Travel Prep:** Make sure you leave with a trusted family member, or friend/colleague a copy of your itinerary, photocopies of your passports (and carry these with you as well), and copies of all the "cards" in your wallet/purse – if it is stolen, you have a head start on what needs to be replaced.

## Cybersecurity

U.S. citizens traveling overseas are vulnerable to cyber intrusion from many sources. Senior leaders are especially vulnerable because they often carry sensitive data, both personal and business related, on a variety of electronic devices, e.g. smart phones, laptops, and tablets. Social media exploitation is always a concern.

### Don't wait until a threat strikes

- ◆ Lock devices down
- ◆ Be cautious of public Wi-Fi - VPN recommended
- ◆ Disable Wi-Fi auto-connect
- ◆ Minimize location sharing
- ◆ Install/update anti-virus protection
- ◆ Update/patch operating systems and applications
- ◆ Use strong passwords and change often
- ◆ Disable Bluetooth connectivity

### REMEMBER

Avoid using public services equipment – such as phones, computers and fax machines – for sensitive communication - Never for CUI or classified.

## Civil Demonstration

Demonstrations occur regularly in Europe. Large, public demonstrations take place for a variety of political and economic issues, or on politically significant holidays like German Labor Day (May 1) and during international summits. Demonstration organizers must obtain prior police approval, who routinely oversee participants. Peaceful demonstrations can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. Avoid areas where demonstrations occur—check State Department guidance and enroll in STEP: <https://step.state.gov/step/>

- ◆ Check local media for updates on the situation and traffic advisories
- ◆ Avoid demonstrations and gatherings, as they may become violent and unpredictable.
- ◆ Celebratory gunfire is common in some areas, e.g. Turkey and has sometimes resulted in death.
- ◆ Follow local authorities' instructions. Police may take action to disperse the group, including possibly using tear gas or detaining participants, even when the government has approved gatherings.

## Crime

Crime is prevalent in many areas of Africa. While violent crime is rare in Europe, it does occur in larger cities or high-risk areas such as large metropolitan subway systems and train stations, primarily during late night or early morning hours. Most incidents of street crime involve the theft of unattended items and pick-pocketing, and occur at train stations, on public transportation, at tourist attractions, and at large public events. Pay close attention to your valuables at all times.

- ◆ Be cautious and aware of your surroundings
- ◆ U.S citizens should exercise caution when congregating in known expatriate hangouts
- ◆ Seemingly racially-motivated assaults (because of foreign appearance) against U.S. citizens have occurred.
- ◆ Don't buy counterfeit or pirated goods, even if widely available. They are illegal to bring into the U.S., and you could be breaking local law.

## Antiterrorism

Credible information indicates terrorist groups continue plotting possible attacks in Europe. Governments are taking action to guard against terrorist attacks; however, all countries remain potentially vulnerable to attacks from transnational terrorist organizations.

- ◆ Terrorists have previously attacked U.S. interests in Europe, including U.S. Embassy and U.S. Consulate facilities.
- ◆ Terrorist groups continue plotting possible attacks throughout Europe. Terrorists may attack with little or no warning, targeting tourist locations, transportation hubs, markets/shopping malls, local government facilities, hotels, clubs, restaurants, places of worship, parks, major sporting and cultural events, educational institutions, airports, and other public areas. Terrorists have also previously targeted Western tourists and expatriates.

## Training

- ◆ AT Level 1: <https://jko.jten.mil/courses/at11/launch.html>
- ◆ SERE 100.2: <https://jkodirect.jten.mil/Atlas2/page/login/Login.jsf>
- ◆ ISOPREP (See Security Manager)
- ◆ Smart Traveler Enrollment Program: <https://step.state.gov/>
- ◆ Complete APACS: <https://apacs.milcloud.mil/apacs/>

## Understand the Threat

*It is necessary to have a good understanding of the threat situation to guide your individual protection efforts. Visit <https://www.eur.army.mil/StaySafe/> for current information and updates.*