

Antiterrorism

Fundamentals for Family Readiness Groups

1. Purpose: provide Family Readiness Groups (FRG) with information to protect family members from potential terrorist acts.

2. Background:

- Terrorists pose various forms of threat. Since 9/11, terrorist tactics and methods have increasingly targeted civilians in public places in an attempt to influence governments. The terrorist threat ranges from ideological influence, to recruitment, to kidnapping for ransom or political gain, to killings.
- Army Families, because of their direct association with the U.S. military, present a lucrative target for terrorists. Moreover, many Army families endure periods of extended separation from their military member which presents unique vulnerabilities to their safety.
- Antiterrorism is the defensive measures used to reduce the vulnerability of individuals and property to terrorist acts.
- Family Readiness Groups, given their role within the Army community, can be of great assistance in fostering the knowledge and provide practical antiterrorism tools to empower resilient families.

3. Basic Security Awareness Tips:

- The best way to educate FRG members about the threat of terrorism and personal protection measures is to have a unit Antiterrorism Officer present awareness training.
- Operations Security, or OPSEC, seeks to keep potential adversaries from discovering information about our Army communities and military missions. As Family members, be aware that adversaries may target you to obtain information.
- Protect personal information at all time and avoid conversations (such as in public, in

Antiterrorism

Fundamentals for Family Readiness Groups

email, on phone, and social network sites) that involve military missions or discussions about long term separation.

- Maintain a proactive mind-set about the security environment where you live, work, and travel.
- Awareness of what's going on around you provides the first line of defense against any threat.
- Maintain a low profile especially when living or travelling overseas.
- Be cautious and prepared for the unexpected.
- Assess your home for adequate security (such as locks and lighting).
- When traveling by vehicle always keep your doors locked and windows rolled up; never allow strangers in your vehicle.
- Know the locations for the embassies, police, fire and medical emergency facilities near your home and along the routes you regularly travel. If you feel threatened, or believe you are being followed, drive to one of these locations to seek refuge.
- Report suspicious behavior or activities through the local law enforcement or military spouse's unit or.
- Talk to your children about their safety and security (such as what to do if they feel threatened and who they can trust)
- Develop a family emergency action plan which includes supplies, evacuation plans, meeting locations, and emergency contact information. Ensure all family members know the plan.
- Get involved with a neighborhood watch program to enhance awareness of unusual activities or behavior that seems "out of the ordinary." Neighborhood watch programs help build basic crime prevention and reporting skills for all members.

Antiterrorism

Fundamentals for Family Readiness Groups

- Overseas locations generally present greater risks simply because you're not as familiar with the location, customs, culture, and where to seek help in an emergency. When living or traveling abroad, plan ahead to understand the threat and risks, as well as identify safe havens.

4. Where to Find Additional Information:

- Antiterrorism individual awareness training is available for military family members through the military member's 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 (<https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/605757>). Unit Antiterrorism Officers have access to and can share these resources with FRGs.
- 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.
- The Ready Army program (<http://www.acsim.army.mil/readyarmy/index.htm>) provides additional information, products and tools to assist families in planning, preparing and responding to emergencies.