

# Antiterrorism

## Fundamentals for Parents and Teenagers

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**1. Purpose:** provide military family members with information to protect them 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.
- Americans living or traveling overseas present a lucrative target for criminals and terrorists alike. While living abroad, military members and their dependents have the opportunity to travel extensively throughout the host nation's communities. Furthermore, it is not unusual for teenagers to be afforded an increased level of personal freedom to include travelling alone or with friends. Travels for teenagers can span metropolitan cities (such as festivals, markets, and nightclubs) to the rural country-side. Whether they travel alone or with parents, overseas locations in particular present an increased risk to their personal safety.
- Antiterrorism is the defensive measures used to reduce the vulnerability of individuals and property to terrorist acts.

**3. Basic Security Awareness Tips:**

- 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 certain hotels, apartment buildings, public transportation centers, and

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nightclubs). Maintain heightened awareness in these locations and leave immediately if you observe suspicious behavior or activity.

- ❖ **Association:** Terrorists may focus on obvious American tourists or personnel associated with the U.S. military. When possible, avoid disclosing your U.S. affiliation. Try to blend in with the local populace.
- ❖ **Opportunity:** Terrorists look for “soft targets.” Maintain vigilance, practice good personal security habits, and alert the proper authorities of suspicious behavior.
- What can you do to reduce your risk of becoming a victim of terrorism? 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 and taking proactive measures to ensure your own safety. Fundamentals of self-protection include:
  - Never travel alone; always travel in groups of two or more. Think ahead and choose safe travel modes and routes.
  - When departing from home, advise your family members of your destination and anticipated arrival time.
  - Whenever possible carry a cellular phone and know the local emergency phone numbers (such as police and medical).
  - Maintain situational awareness of your surroundings at all times. This means to pay attention (see and listen) for things happening around you and to identify anything unusual. If necessary, leave the area and report the suspicious activity to local authorities.
  - Take precautions with social media networks (such as Facebook, Twitter, and blogs) and avoid posting or providing personal information. Criminals and terrorists are known to use these forums for recruitment.

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- 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.
- Understand the culture where you are living. Knowing the culture and customs of the host nation will facilitate better communication and understanding and will reduce the likelihood of terrorist attack from actions that foster hatred toward the United States.
- Developing your basic language skills will help you gain the respect and trust of local citizens, even if your fluency is minimal. Learning key survival phrases in the local language (such as, "I need a police officer or doctor") will be vital in an emergency situation.
- Stay away from civil disturbances and demonstrations of any form. These venues can turn violent with little to no advanced warning.
- If you think you are being followed, go to a safe location such as the U.S. Embassy, military installation or local police station.
- Look out for potential terrorist recruiting efforts targeting you or your peers via the internet and social networking sites. Watch for anti-American sentiments from acquaintances and report them immediately.

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

- Antiterrorism individual awareness training is available for dependents (spouses and children) 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.

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- 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 teenagers of basic security measures.