

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.

Threat Situation

Transnational terrorist groups, State-Sponsored terrorists, and those inspired by their propaganda continue to threaten Europe, Africa, and U.S. interests worldwide. Terrorists often target mass gatherings including transit nodes, public events, tourist venues, and places of worship as well as police and military forces (including the U.S. military). In recent years, allied counter-terrorism forces have thwarted several plots by transnational and state-sponsored terrorists in Europe. Both kinds of terrorists have, however, succeeded in conducting simple, lethal attacks in Europe. Lone wolves continue to act on their own initiative and timelines, sometimes in response to events taking place outside Europe or Africa. Unsophisticated plots by lone wolf terrorists and organized terror groups are difficult to detect and can, therefore, occur with little to no warning. In Europe and Africa, public demonstrations and protests may become violent without warning, putting bystanders at great risk.

There are currently no credible threats or indications of imminent attack against U.S. personnel or their interests within the USEUCOM area of responsibility (AOR). Following the 31 July strike against now-deceased al-Qa'ida emir Ayman al-Zawahiri, the one-year anniversary of the fall of Kabul, Afghanistan, and the 9/11 anniversary, al-Qa'ida and pro-Salafi jihadist media may increase threatening rhetoric and encourage others to conduct attacks. Additionally, the 2020 strike that killed Iran's Major Gen Qassem Soleimani remains a potential motivator for retaliatory violence. Sympathetic extremist media outlets continue rhetoric to sustain and encourage social conditions that could encourage attacks. To date, supporters of terror have had a limited response following the death of their leaders; however, inspired lone actor attacks remain the most likely terrorism-related threat to DOD personnel. Inspired extremists generally use simple methods such as knife or vehicle attacks and could exploit targets of opportunity. Additionally, perceived Anti-Muslim sentiment in the region creates further inspiration for violent extremists to take action in the near term. The difficulty in predicting and countering these threats necessitates the need for DoD personnel and their families to maintain enduring vigilance and apply appropriate protective measures to detect and defend against terrorist activities.

Current events increase the threat of espionage and sabotage throughout the AOR, more succinctly characterized as a threat directed against both military and civilian infrastructure, as opposed to attacks against personnel and facilities. Attempts to gain trust and influence the actions of both host nation governments, civilian populations and U.S. military personnel and families will see an increase, and call for a watchful and cautious approach to social media activities. With threats posed by violent actors differing across Africa, personnel should get updated threat information for specific areas prior to travel. Extreme levels of poverty, underdevelopment, cultural and religious fractionalization, overcrowding, and environmental vulnerability have led to destabilization and permissive operating areas for violent actors. Roughly two dozen Islamic extremist groups (with constantly shifting objectives and allegiances) operate in at least twelve African countries. Pockets of extremism present lethal threats to U.S. equities in specific locations across the continent, while risks such as crime (including abduction), disease, and undeveloped healthcare systems can be regionally significant.

In light of the above situation, and other factors such as regional conflicts, health controls, economic conditions, international sanctions, energy and supply chain challenges, and other geopolitical and societal tension, commanders must continually stress the importance of the need for DoD personnel to remain vigilant, increase their awareness of their security environment, report suspicious activity, and take proactive steps to improve individual and organizational security. (As of 8 March 2023)

Stronger Together!

Antiterrorism Travel Awareness



Antiterrorism Operations Begin with You!

This guide will assist in your travel planning, but it is important to tailor protective measures to your situation.



USAREUR-AF
G34-Antiterrorism

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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)		

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 and Africa. 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 and Africa, including U.S. Embassy and U.S. Consulate facilities.
- ◆ Terrorist groups continue plotting possible attacks throughout Europe and Africa. 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/atl1/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/step/>
- ◆ 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 <http://www.eur.army.mil/StaySafe/> for current information and updates.