
CHAPTER I - MINIMIZING THE RISKS

There is no way to be 100% secure while abroad. Common sense, sound advice and appropriate physical security deterrents will help minimize those risks. The following suggestions which may be of assistance upon your departure and arrival at mission, will also be of use during your posting.

1. INCIDENT FACTORS

One of the greatest threats to personal safety is the narcosis of danger: the state of complacency that results from growing accustomed to danger. Employees newly arrived often sense danger more rapidly than longer term staff who have become desensitized to their environment. Be aware of your surroundings - do not become complacent.

Another significant threat is cumulative stress. Working long hours, not enough sleep, adjusting to a new environment can all lead to chronic stress and hinder ability to recognize risk and/or respond to threat. Do not hesitate to obtain medical help.

2. AIR TRAVEL - SAFETY TIPS

In the event you may lose important travel documents, before departure scan and send them to a personal e-mail. Once you have access to internet services, you will be able to retrieve copies of your documents.

Take off previous luggage tags prior to travel as airport equipment may scan the wrong tag resulting in your luggage being stowed on the wrong aircraft.

Mark your luggage so you can identify it quickly but do not make information such as your name and address visible. Your address on your luggage advertises that you are absent from your residence.

Try not to lose sight of your belongings going through the metal detectors to avoid potential incidents of personal luggage being taken by other passengers off the x-ray luggage scanner.

Carry an 'S' hook to hang your belongings on the doors of washrooms where the hooks may have been removed to facilitate theft.

Do not acknowledge or mention to any other passengers should you notice an air marshal on the aircraft.

3. UPON ARRIVAL AT DESTINATION

Particularly if in an unfamiliar airport terminal, use a porter to carry your luggage. If you do obtain the assistance of a porter, have that same porter call a taxi for you which will serve to alert the driver that he has been seen.

The use of a porter will also detract attention from you because he will take you directly to the taxi through the public as other porters may insist on carrying your luggage. Hold your purse, briefcase, etc., very tightly against you.