

## **SAFETY AND SECURITY**

### **Preparing for Departure**

Know the potential threats in the region you will be traveling. See [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) for State Dept. updates.

Learn local customs and laws to blend in as much as possible.

Some countries have strict interpretations against taking pictures of military and/or security installations, including government buildings (i.e. scientific laboratories). Some countries view political or offensive literature that may be forbidden (including Playboy, etc.) as anti-government.

Register with and carry the phone numbers of the U.S. Embassy and/or Consulate. Check [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) for U.S. Embassies and Consulates.

Keep your wallet or pocketbook thin and put a rubber band around it to make it harder for a pickpocket to steal. You may want to carry a second wallet with a few dollars and a small amount of local currency to 'give away' if confronted by a robber.

Make copies of your itinerary, vital papers and contents of your wallet. Leave copies at home, your office, and in your checked baggage.

### **On the Road**

Always keep your passport with you in your front pants pocket or in a hidden pouch in your clothes. Memorize the passport number and place of issue so you don't draw attention to yourself by removing it to fill out customs forms.

Always have a basic plan of action in the event of an emergency. Know emergency exits in planes, buses and hotels, and carry phone numbers of local emergency and police institutions and U.S. points of contact.

Carry your briefcase or purse or backpack on the inside, next to the person with whom you are traveling.

Review maps or directions prior to departure to minimize looking at a map in public or appearing 'lost'.

### **In Country**

Don't draw attention to yourself as an American traveler.

Don't become involved in black market currency exchanges.

Don't leave valuables in your hotel room. Be advised hotel staff (who are sometimes employed or co-opted by foreign military or intelligence institutions) do have access to room safes or safe deposit boxes.

Never leave your laptop behind in your hotel room or temporary residence, if possible. Be aware of using WI-FI to access Internet sites—individuals can remotely access your laptop to steal identity information or plant viruses.

Be aware of who may have access to your laptop when working or interacting in any foreign laboratories or institutions.

When going out, leave the hotel room or temporary residence lights on or the TV on and put out the 'Do Not Disturb' sign (if in a hotel room) to give the impression someone is in the room.

If you suspect you are being followed or under surveillance, don't acknowledge, confront, photograph or harass the individual or individuals. Report the incident to the U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

Be aware that foreign intelligence services have approaches designed to test your reactions and to determine your susceptibility to compromise (e.g., agreeing to share information from previous sensitive or classified projects you may have worked on or plan to work on). Usually these approaches are unobtrusive and non-threatening; however, some may employ more aggressive tactics.

Be suspicious of quick friendships.

Be suspicious if you are singled out for attention not given to other members of your group (i.e. you are assigned a hotel room on a different floor; your luggage is temporarily lost; your luggage was the only luggage lost out of all the members of your group).

If you have any family members associated with the U.S. military or civilian government institutions, be aware of any individual taking unusual interest in that family member or you.

Be aware that engaging in questionable or indiscreet behavior, illegal activities, alcohol or drug use, and political activities can be used for propaganda purposes or exploitation by a foreign host or foreign individuals.

Be aware that guides and interpreters may be foreign intelligence officer or informants. Beware of individuals who just 'happen' to have similar vocations, hobbies, interests, etc.

Don't accept letters, photographs, packages or any other material to be smuggled out of the country for any reason.

Be aware that in restrictive nations your mail and e-mail may be monitored.

Don't permit local photographers to take candid pictures of you.

### **If You are Detained by Local Authorities**

Don't admit to anything and don't sign anything until after you have consulted with an official representative of the U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

If you have previously worked at a U.S. national laboratory (e.g., Naval Research Laboratory, Lawrence Livermore, etc.) or worked on a sensitive or classified project, do not admit anything and do not discuss any details of the laboratory or project.