**During Your Stay**

Beware that your conversations may not be private or secure. Unlike the United States, most other countries do not have legal restrictions against technical surveillance. Most foreign security services have various means of screening incoming visitors to identify persons of potential intelligence interest. They also have well-established contacts with hotels and common hosts that can assist in various forms of monitoring you. Electronic eavesdropping has been reported on airlines, in hotel rooms, taxis, and meeting rooms.

Do not use non-company computers to log into your company’s network. Always consider any information conveyed through a non-company computer to be compromised, even if encrypted.

Your local FBI office #:

Additional travel security tips and country threat assessments are available from the FBI upon request.

**Upon Your Return**

Review your system access with your company’s Information Security Officer. Access that is not accounted for should be investigated.

It is not uncommon for foreigners to contact you after your return. The FBI may be able to help you determine if these contacts pose any risk to you or your company.

Change all your passwords including your voicemail and check electronic devices for malware.

Report any unusual circumstances or noteworthy incidents to your security officer and to the FBI. Notifying the FBI will help ensure that future travel advisories take into consideration the circumstances and incidents you encountered.

**SAFETY AND SECURITY for the Business Professional Traveling Abroad**

You or your firm may be a target of a foreign country’s efforts to obtain information or technologies in order to increase their market share, build their economies, or modernize their militaries. Targeting methods include luggage searches, extensive questioning, and unnecessary inspection and downloading of information from laptop computers.

Business travelers should take measures to ensure not only the safety and security of themselves but also their business information while traveling outside the United States.

“...the willingness of US scientists and scholars to engage in academic exchange make US travelers particularly vulnerable not only to standard electronic monitoring devices—installed in hotel rooms or conference centers—but also to simple approaches by foreigners trained to ask the right questions.” – Annual Report to Congress on Foreign Economic Collection and Industrial Espionage, 2003.

Good security habits will help protect you and your company.

The Overseas Security Advisory Council: www.osac.gov
Corporate espionage is an increasingly serious threat for a business traveler. The perpetrator may be a competitor, opportunist, or foreign intelligence officer. In many countries, domestic corporations collect competitive intelligence with the help and support of their government. To mitigate this risk, your organization’s critical information and technologies should not reside on any hard copy or electronic device you take unless it is absolutely necessary, and if so, then you must safeguard the physical access to the information by using encryption and keeping the material on your person at all times. Hotel safes are not adequate protection.

Before You Go

Familiarize yourself with local laws and customs in the areas you plan to travel. You are expected to obey their laws, which may include dress standards, photography restrictions, telecommunication restrictions, curfews, etc.

Plan your wardrobe so that it does not offend the locals, nor draw unwanted attention to yourself. Americans are perceived as wealthy and are targeted for pick pocketing and other crimes. Do not wear expensive-looking jewelry and avoid wearing American team sports shirts or baseball caps that might indicate you are an American.

Make copies of your passport, airplane ticket, driver’s license, and credit cards that you take with you. Keep one copy at home; carry a second copy with you but separate from the originals. This will help speed the replacement process if they are lost or stolen.

Do not take unnecessary identification or credit cards in case they are stolen. Take only what is necessary. Obtain traveler’s checks if needed.

Obtain specific pre-travel country risk assessments for the country(s) you plan to visit from your security officer, the State Department, and/or the FBI. There may be specific issues you should be aware of and prepare for that will ensure your safety and peace of mind.

Visit www.osac.gov for security news and reports for the country(s) you plan to visit.

During Your Stay

Produce your passport! Theft of American tourist passports is on the rise. It is recommended that you carry your passport in a front pants pocket or in a pouch hidden in your clothes, and that it remain with you at all times. Some hotels require you to leave it at the desk during your stay and they may use it to register you with the local police—a routine policy. Ask for a receipt and be sure to retrieve your passport before continuing your trip. If your passport is lost or stolen, report the situation immediately to the nearest US Embassy or Consulate.

Be courteous and cooperative when processing through customs. Do not leave your bags unattended. Stay alert.

Use authorized taxis. You could be overcharged, robbed or kidnapped when using "gypsy" taxis.

Do not invite strangers into your room.

Avoid traveling alone, especially after dark. Be conscious of your surroundings and avoid areas you believe may put your personal safety at risk. Be wary of street vendors and innocent-looking youngsters. While one person has your attention, another might be picking your pocket.

Do not carry large amounts of cash. Always deal with reputable currency exchange officials or run the risk of receiving counterfeit currency. Keep a record of your financial transactions.

Beware that theft from sleeping compartments on trains is common.

Do not leave drinks unattended — someone could slip a drug into it that causes amnesia and sleep.

Avoid long waits in lounges and terminals, if possible. These areas may harbor pickpockets, thieves, and violent offenders. Laptop theft is especially common in airports.

If you are arrested for any reason, ask to notify the nearest US Embassy or Consulate.

City phones can be hacked to steal contact lists, usernames, passwords, and browser history.

Use up-to-date protections for antivirus, spyware, security patches, and firewalls.

Clean out your voice mail. When you access your messages, the pass code may become compromised and others may then retrieve your messages.

At the airport, a thief preceded a traveler through a security checkpoint. After the traveler placed his laptop computer on the x-ray machine conveyor belt, a second thief set off the metal detector causing a delay. The first thief then stole the traveler’s laptop after it passed through the x-ray machine.

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