

**Service Member's  
Personal Protection  
Guide:**

**A Self-Help Guide to  
COMBAT TERRORISM  
While Overseas**



**APRIL 2000**

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Joint Staff Guide 5260

"Service Member's Personal Protection Guide: A Self-Help Guide to Combat Terrorism While Overseas"

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**FOREWORD**

This guide is designed to assist in making you and your family less vulnerable to terrorists while stationed or traveling overseas. You should become familiar with its contents and incorporate those protective measures that are applicable to your particular situation. Moreover, ensure every member of your family is made aware of this valuable information so they can help protect themselves as well.

Terrorism is an indiscriminate crime that strikes in varying forms of threats and violence. Terrorists generate fear through intimidation, coercion, and acts of violence such as hijackings, bombings, or kidnappings, which usually occur more frequently in certain parts of the world, making travelers to foreign countries more likely potential victims. As past events have shown, terrorists have reached new levels of organization, sophistication, and violence -- their tactics and techniques are always changing and will continue to be a challenge to neutralize. Accordingly, we must remain diligent in applying the proper protective measures.

You and your family are an important part of our military. This guide will not ensure immunity from terrorism, but by practicing these techniques and proven security habits, the possibility of becoming a target will be reduced. Defensive awareness and personal security regarding terrorism are responsibilities of everyone assigned to DOD. As members of the military community, you are a highly valuable yet most vulnerable resource. Constant awareness can help protect all members of the military family from acts of terrorism.



HENRY H. SHELTON  
Chairman  
of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

# **Steps To Combat Terrorism**

## **KEEP A LOW PROFILE**

Your dress, conduct, and mannerisms should not attract attention. Make an effort to blend into the local environment. Avoid publicity and don't go out in large groups. Stay away from civil disturbances and demonstrations.

## **BE UNPREDICTABLE**

Vary your route to and from work and the time you leave and return home. Vary the way you dress. Don't exercise at the same time and place each day; never exercise alone, on deserted streets, or country roads. Let people close to you know where you are going, what you'll be doing, and when you should be back.

## **BE ALERT**

Watch for anything suspicious or out of place. Don't give personal information over the telephone. If you think you are being followed, go to a pre-selected secure area such as a military base or police station. Immediately report the incident to the military/security police or law enforcement agencies. In overseas areas without such agencies, report the incident to the Security Officer or the Military Attaché at the US Embassy.

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## Section I

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### General Security Checklist

- Instruct your family and associates not to provide strangers with information about you or your family.
- Avoid giving unnecessary personal details to anyone.
- Be alert to strangers who are on government property for no apparent reason. Report all suspicious persons loitering near your office; attempt to provide a complete description of the person and/or vehicle to police or security.
- Vary daily routines, such as departure times and routes to and from work, to avoid habitual patterns.
- Refuse to meet with strangers outside your work place.
- Always advise associates or family members of your destination and anticipated time of arrival when leaving the office or home.
- Don't open doors to strangers.
- Memorize key phone numbers -- office, home, police, security, etc.
- Be cautious about giving out information regarding family travel plans or security measures and procedures.
- Learn and practice a few key phrases in the native language, such as "I need a policeman, doctor," etc.

# **House, Home, and Family Security**

Although spouses and children are seldom targeted by terrorists, they should practice basic precautions for their personal security. Familiarize your family with the local terrorist threat and regularly review the protective measures and techniques listed in this handbook. Ensure everyone in the family knows what to do in an emergency.

## **TIPS FOR THE FAMILY AT HOME**

- Restrict the possession of house keys. Change locks if keys are lost or stolen and when moving into a previously occupied residence.
- Lock all entrances at night, including the garage. Keep the house locked, even if you are at home.
- Destroy all envelopes or other items that show your name, rank, or other personal information.
- Develop friendly relations with your neighbors.
- Do not draw attention to yourself; be considerate of neighbors.
- Avoid frequent exposure on balconies and near windows.

## **BE SUSPICIOUS**

- Be alert to public works crews and other foreign nationals requesting access to residence; check their identities through a peephole before allowing entry.
- Be cautious about peddlers and strangers.
- Write down license numbers of suspicious vehicles; note descriptions of occupants.
- Treat with suspicion any inquiries from strangers concerning the whereabouts or activities of family members.
- Report all suspicious activity to Military/Security Police or local law enforcement.

## **TELEPHONE SECURITY**

- Post emergency numbers on the telephone and pre-program phone numbers where possible.

- Military/Security Police: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Local Police: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Fire Department: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Hospital: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Ambulance \_\_\_\_\_
- Do not answer your telephone with your name and rank.
  - Report all threatening phone calls to security officials and telephone company.

### **WHEN GOING OUT OVERSEAS**

- Travel in small groups as much as possible. Avoid high-risk areas such as demonstrations, and vary movements so as not to be predictable.
- Try to be inconspicuous when using public transportation and facilities. Dress, conduct, and mannerisms should not attract attention.
- Do not be curious about spontaneous gatherings or demonstrations. Avoid them.
- Stay away from known trouble or disreputable places; visit only reputable establishments, but don't frequent the same off-base locations (in particular, known, US-associated locales).
- Know emergency numbers and how to use the local telephone system.

### **SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS FOR CHILDREN**

- Know where your children are all the time.
- Never leave young children alone or unattended. Be certain they are in the care of a trustworthy person.
- If it is necessary to leave children at home, keep the house well lighted and notify the neighbors.
- Instruct children to keep doors and windows locked, and to never admit strangers.
- Teach children how to contact the police or neighbor in an emergency.
- Advise your children to:

- Never leave home without telling you where they will be and who will accompany them.
- Travel in pairs or small groups.
- Avoid isolated areas.
- Use locally approved play areas where recreational activities are supervised by responsible adults and where police protection is readily available.
- Refuse automobile rides from strangers and refuse to accompany strangers anywhere on foot even if the strangers say mom or dad sent them, or said it was "okay."
- Report immediately to the nearest person of authority (parent, teacher, police) anyone who attempts to molest or annoy them.

### **SECURITY PRECAUTIONS WHEN YOU'RE AWAY**

- Leave the house with a lived-in look.
- Stop deliveries of or forward mail to a neighbor's home.
- Don't leave notes on doors.
- Don't hide keys outside house.
- Use a timer (appropriate to local electricity) to turn lights on and off at varying times and locations.
- Leave radio on.
- Hide valuables.
- Notify the police or trusted neighbor of your absence.
- Ask a trusted friend/neighbor to periodically check residence.

### **SUSPICIOUS PACKAGES OR MAIL**

- Suspicious characteristics to look for include:
  - An unusual or unknown place of origin.
  - No return address.
  - An excessive amount of postage.
  - Abnormal or unusual size.
  - Oily stains on the package.
  - Wires or strings protruding from or attached to an item.
  - Incorrect spelling on the package label.
  - Differing return address and postmark.
  - Appearance of foreign style handwriting.

- Peculiar odor. (Many explosives used by terrorists smell like shoe polish or almonds.)
  - Unusual heaviness or lightness.
  - Uneven balance or shape.
  - Springiness in the top, bottom, or sides.
- Never cut tape, strings, or other wrappings on a suspect package or immerse a suspected letter or package in water. Either action could cause an explosive device to detonate.
  - Never touch or move a suspicious package or letter.
  - Report any suspicious packages or mail to security officials immediately.

### **DOMESTIC EMPLOYEES**

- Conduct a security background check with local police, neighbors, and friends.
- Inform employees about security responsibilities.
- Instruct them which phone or other means of communication to use in an emergency.
- Do not discuss travel plans or sensitive topics within earshot of domestic employees who have no need to know.
- Discuss duties in friendly, firm manner.
- Give presents or gratuities according to local customs.

### **RESIDENTIAL SECURITY**

#### Exterior Grounds:

- Do not put your name on the outside of your residence or mailbox.
- Have good lighting.
- Control vegetation to eliminate hiding places.

#### Entrances and exits should have:

- Solid doors with deadbolt locks.
- One-way peep holes in door.
- Bars and locks on skylights.

- Metal grating on glass doors and ground floor windows, with interior release mechanisms that are not reachable from outside.

Interior features:

- Alarm and intercom systems.
- Fire extinguishers.
- Medical and first aid equipment.

Other desirable features:

- A clear view of approaches.
- More than one access road.
- Off-street parking.
- High (6-8 feet) perimeter wall or fence.

## **Ground Transportation Security**

Criminal and terrorist acts against individuals usually occur outside the home and after the victim's habits have been established. Your most predictable habit is the route of travel from home to duty station or to commonly frequented local facilities.

### **VEHICLES OVERSEAS**

- Select a plain car; avoid the "rich American" look.
- Consider not using a government car that announces ownership.
- Do not display decals with military or unit affiliations on vehicle.
- Do not openly display military equipment or field gear in your vehicle.

Auto Maintenance:

- Keep vehicle in good repair.
- Always keep gas tank at least half full.
- Ensure tires have sufficient tread.

### **PARKING YOUR CAR**

- Always lock your car.
- Don't leave your car on the street overnight, if possible.

- Never get out without checking for suspicious persons. If in doubt, drive away.
- Leave only the ignition key with parking attendant.
- Don't leave garage doors open or unlocked.
- Use a remote garage door opener if available. Enter and exit your car in the security of the closed garage.

### **ON THE ROAD**

- Before leaving buildings to get into your vehicle, check the surrounding area to determine if anything of a suspicious nature exists. Display the same wariness before exiting your vehicle.
- Prior to getting into a vehicle, check beneath it for any tampering or bombs by looking for wires, tape, or anything unusual.
- If possible, vary routes to work and home.
- Avoid late night travel.
- Travel with companions.
- Avoid isolated roads or dark alleys when possible.
- Habitually ride with seatbelts buckled, doors locked, and windows closed.
- Do not allow your vehicle to be boxed in; maintain a minimum 8-foot interval between you and the vehicle in front; avoid the inner lanes. Be alert while driving or riding.
- Know how to react if you are being followed:
  - Check during turns for confirmation of surveillance.
  - Do not stop or take other actions which could lead to confrontation.
  - Do not drive home. If necessary, go to the nearest military base or police station.
  - Get description of car and its occupants.
  - Report incident to military/security police.
- Recognize events that can signal the start of an attack. When one of these events occurs, start mentally preparing a course of action in case an attack develops. These events may include, but are not limited to:

- Cyclist falling in front of your car.
  - Flagman or workman stopping your car.
  - Unusual or false police or government checkpoint.
  - Disabled vehicle/accident victims on the road.
  - Unusual detours.
  - An accident in which your car is struck.
  - Cars or pedestrian traffic that box you in.
  - Sudden activity or gunfire.
- Know what to do if under attack in a vehicle:
- Without subjecting yourself, passengers, or pedestrians to harm, try to draw attention to your car by sounding the horn.
  - Put another vehicle between you and your pursuer.
  - Execute immediate turn and escape; jump the curb at 30-45 degree angle, 35 mph maximum.
  - Ram blocking vehicle if necessary.
  - Go to closest safe haven.
  - Report incident to military/security police.

### **COMMERCIAL BUSES, TRAINS, AND TAXIS**

- Vary mode of commercial transportation.
- Select busy stops.
- Don't always use the same taxi company.
- Don't let someone you don't know direct you to a specific cab.
- Ensure taxi is licensed and has safety equipment (seatbelts at a minimum).
- Ensure face of driver and picture on license are the same.
- Try to travel with a companion.
- If possible, specify the route you want the taxi to follow.

## **Traveling Defensively by Air**

Air travel, particularly through high risk airports or countries, poses security problems different from those of ground transportation. Simple precautions can reduce the hazards of a terrorist assault.

### **MAKING TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS**

- Get a threat briefing from your security officer, antiterrorism training officer, or force protection officer prior to traveling in a high risk area. Your force protection officer will know which areas DOD considers a high risk area.
- Before traveling, consult the DoD Foreign Clearance Guide to ensure you know and can meet all requirements for travel to a particular country.
- Use military air or US flag carriers.
- Avoid scheduling through high-risk areas. If necessary, use foreign flag airlines and/or indirect routings to avoid high-risk airports.
- Don't use rank or military address on tickets, travel documents, or hotel reservations. Select a window seat, which would offer more protection since aisle seats are closer to the hijackers' movements up and down the aisle.
- Rear seats also offer more protection since they are farther from the center of hostile action which is often near the cockpit.
- Seats at an emergency exit may provide an opportunity to escape.
- Avoid off-base hotels, if possible; use government quarters or contracted hotels.

### **PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION**

- Don't discuss your military affiliation with anyone.
- Have proper identification to show airline and immigration officials. Consider use of a tourist passport, if you have one with necessary visas, providing the country you are visiting allows it.

- If you use a tourist passport, consider placing your official passport, military ID, travel orders, and related documents in your checked luggage, not in your wallet or briefcase.
- If you must carry these documents on your person, select a hiding place onboard the aircraft to "ditch" them in case of a hijacking.
- Don't carry classified documents unless they are absolutely mission-essential.

### **LUGGAGE**

- Use plain, civilian luggage; avoid military-looking bags such as B-4 bags and duffel bags.
- Remove all military patches, logos, or decals from your luggage and briefcase.
- Ensure luggage tags don't show your rank or military address.
- Don't carry official papers in your briefcase.

### **CLOTHING**

- Travel in conservative civilian clothing when using commercial transportation or when traveling military airlift if you are to connect with a flight at a commercial terminal in a high risk area.
- Don't wear distinct military items such as organizational shirts, caps, or military issue shoes or glasses.
- Don't wear US identified items such as cowboy hats or boots, baseball caps, American logo T-shirts, jackets, or sweatshirts.
- Wear a long-sleeved shirt if you have a visible US affiliated tattoo.

### **PRECAUTIONS AT THE AIRPORT**

- Arrive early; watch for suspicious activity.
- Look for nervous passengers who maintain eye contact with others from a distance. Observe what people are carrying. Note behavior not consistent with that of others in the area.

- No matter where you are in the terminal, identify objects suitable for cover in the event of attack- pillars, trashcans, luggage, large planters, counters, and furniture can provide protection.
- Proceed through security checkpoints as soon as possible.
- Avoid secluded areas that provide concealment for attackers.
- Be aware of unattended baggage anywhere in the terminal.
- Be extremely observant of personal carry-on luggage. Thefts of briefcases designed for laptop computers are increasing at airports worldwide. Likewise, luggage not properly guarded provides an opportunity for a terrorist to place an unwanted object or device in your carry-on bag. As much as possible, do not pack anything you cannot afford to lose; if the documents are important, make a copy and carry the copy.
- Observe the baggage claim area from a distance. Do not retrieve your bags until the crowd clears. Proceed to the customs lines at the edge of the crowd.
- Report suspicious activity to the airport security personnel.

### **ACTIONS IF ATTACKED IN AN AIRPORT**

- Dive for cover. Do not run; running increases the probability of shrapnel hitting vital organs or the head.
- If you must move, belly crawl or roll. Stay low to the ground, using available cover.
- If you see grenades, seek immediate cover, lay flat on the floor, feet and knees tightly together with soles toward the grenade. In this position, your shoes, feet, and legs protect the rest of your body. Shrapnel will rise in a cone from the point of detonation, passing over your body.
- Place arms and elbows next to your ribcage to protect your lungs, heart, and chest. Cover your ears and head with your hands to protect neck, arteries, ears, and skull.
- Responding security personnel will not be able to distinguish you from attackers. Do not attempt to assist them in any way. Lay still until told to get up.

### **ACTIONS IF HIJACKED**

- Remain calm, be polite and cooperate with your captors.

- Be aware that all hijackers may not reveal themselves at the same time. A lone hijacker may be used to draw out security personnel for neutralization by other hijackers.
- Surrender your tourist passport in response to a general demand for identification.
- Don't offer any information; confirm your military status if directly confronted with the fact. Be prepared to explain that you always travel on your personal passport and that no deceit was intended.
- Discretely dispose of any military or US affiliated documents.
- Don't draw attention to yourself with sudden body movements, verbal remarks, or hostile looks.
- Prepare yourself for possible verbal and physical abuse, and lack of food, drink, and sanitary conditions.
- If permitted, read, sleep, or write to occupy your time.
- Discretely observe your captors and memorize their physical descriptions. Include voice patterns and language distinctions, as well as clothing and unique physical characteristics.
- Cooperate with any rescue attempt. Lie on the floor until told to rise.

## **Taken Hostage - You Can Survive!**

The chances of you being taken hostage are truly remote. Even better news is that survival rates are high. But should it happen, remember, your personal conduct can influence treatment in captivity. The Department of State has responsibility for all US government personnel and their dependents in overseas areas. Should a hostage situation develop, the Department of State will immediately begin to take action according to preconceived plans to attempt to release the hostages. If kidnapped and taken hostage, the hostage has three very important rules to follow:

- Analyze the problem so as not to aggravate the situation.
- Make decisions to keep the situation from worsening.
- Maintain discipline to remain on the best terms with the captors.

## **PREPARING THE FAMILY**

- Have your family affairs in order, including an up-to-date will, appropriate powers of attorney, and measures taken to ensure family financial security.
- Issues such as continuing the children's education, family relocation, and disposition of property should be discussed with family members.
- Your family should know that talking about your military affiliation to non-DOD people may place you, or them, in great danger.
- They must be convinced the US government will work to obtain your safe release.
- Don't be depressed if negotiation efforts appear to be taking a long time. Remember, your chances of survival actually increase with time.

## **STAY IN CONTROL**

- Regain your composure as soon as possible and recognize your fear. Your captors are probably as apprehensive as you are, so your actions are important.
- Take mental notes of directions, times of transit, noises, and other factors to identify your location.
- Note the number, physical description, accents, habits, and rank structure of your captors.
- Anticipate isolation and efforts to disorient and confuse you.
- To the extent possible, try to mentally prepare yourself for the situation ahead. Stay mentally active.

## **DEALING WITH YOUR CAPTORS**

- Do not aggravate them.
- Do not get into political or ideological discussions.
- Comply with instructions, but always maintain your dignity.
- Attempt to develop a positive relationship with them.
- Be proud of your heritage, government, and military association, but use discretion.

## **KEEP OCCUPIED**

- Exercise daily.
- Read anything and everything.
- Eat what is offered to you. You must maintain your strength.
- Establish a slow, methodical routine for every task.

## **BEING INTERROGATED**

- If you need to make up a story to protect sensitive information, take a simple, tenable position you will be able to remember and stick to it.
- Be polite and keep your temper.
- Give short answers. Talk freely about nonessential matters, but be guarded when conversations turn to matters of substance.
- Don't be lulled by a friendly approach. Remember that one terrorist may play "Good Guy" and one "Bad Guy." This is the most common interrogation technique.
- Briefly affirm your belief in basic democratic principles.
- If forced to present terrorist demands to authorities, in writing or on tape, state clearly that the demands are from your captors.
- Avoid making a plea on your behalf.

## **DURING RESCUE**

- Drop to the floor and be still. Avoid sudden moves. Wait for instruction.
- Once released, avoid derogatory comments about your captors; such remarks will only make things harder for those still held captive.

# **Responding to Chemical Threats**

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Chemical agents are generally liquids, often aerosolized, and although some effects are delayed, most induce an immediate response. There are many different potential

chemical agents that a terrorist could use as a weapon. Nonetheless, the following broad generalizations can be made:

- Although food or water contamination is possible, inhalation is the most likely method of delivery. Protection of the breathing airway is the single most important factor of defense.
- Many likely agents are heavier than air and will tend to stay close to the ground. This dictates an upward safety area strategy.
- Generally, chemical agents tend to present an immediate noticeable effect. Medical attention should be sought immediately, even if exposure is thought to be limited.
- Most chemical agents that present an inhalation hazard will break down fairly rapidly when exposed to sun, diluted with water, or dissipated in high winds.
- No matter what the agent or particular concentration, evacuation- preferably upwind from the area of attack- is always advisable unless you are properly equipped with appropriate breathing device and protective clothing.

## **DETECTION**

A chemical attack or incident will not always be immediately apparent because many agents are odorless and colorless. Be alert to the possible presence of an agent. Indicators of such an attack include:

- Droplets of oily film on surfaces.
- Unusual dead or dying animals in the area.
- Unusual liquid sprays or vapors.
- Unexplained odors (smell of bitter almonds, peach kernels, newly mowed hay, or green grass).
- Unusual or unauthorized spraying in the area.
- Low-lying clouds of fog unrelated to weather; clouds of dust; or suspended, possibly colored particles.
- People dressed unusually (long-sleeved shirts or overcoats in the summertime) or wearing breathing protection particularly in areas where large numbers of people tend to congregate, such as subways, or stadiums.

- Victims displaying symptoms of nausea, difficulty breathing, convulsions, disorientation, or patterns of illness inconsistent with natural disease.

### **DEFENSE IN CASE OF CHEMICAL ATTACK**

Protection of breathing airways is the single most important thing a person can do in the event of a chemical attack. In most cases, absent a gas mask, the only sure way to protect an airway is to put distance between you and the source of the agent. While evacuating the area, cover your mouth and nose with a handkerchief, coat sleeve, or any piece of cloth to provide some moderate means of protection. Other steps are:

- Stay alert. Early detection enhances survival.
- Move upwind from the source of attack.
- If evacuation from the immediate area is impossible, move outdoors or to an interior room on a higher floor. Remember, many agents are heavier than air and will tend to stay close to the ground.
- If indoors and no escape outside is possible, close all windows and exterior doors while also shutting down the air conditioning or heating systems to prevent circulation of air.
- Cover your mouth and nose. If gas masks are not available, use a surgical mask or handkerchief. An improvised mask can be made by soaking a clean cloth in a solution of one tablespoon of baking soda in a cup of water. Not highly effective, it may provide some protection.
- Cover bare arms and legs and make sure any cuts or abrasions are covered and bandaged.
- If splashed with an agent, immediately wipe it off using copious amounts of warm soapy water or a diluted 10:1 bleach solution.
- If water is not available, talcum powder or flour are also excellent means of decontamination of liquid agents. Sprinkle the flour or powder liberally over the affected skin area, wait 30 seconds, and gently wipe off with a rag or gauze pad.
- **No matter what the agent or concentration, medical attention should be sought immediately, even if the exposure is thought to be limited.**

## **DOD Policy Guidance on the Code of Conduct for Personnel Subject to Terrorist Activity**

### **DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

**DERIVED FROM DoD DIRECTIVE 1300.7 AND DoD INSTRUCTION 1300.21**

#### **A. Policy:**

This policy concerning the conduct of US military personnel isolated from US control applies at all times. US military personnel finding themselves isolated from US control are required to do everything in their power to follow DOD policy. The DoD policy in this situation is to survive with honor.

#### **B. Scope:**

The Code of Conduct is a moral guide designed to assist military personnel in combat or being held prisoners of war to live up to the ideals contained in the DoD policy. The guidance contained in this section shall assist US military personnel who find themselves isolated from US control in peacetime, or in a situation not related specifically in the Code of Conduct.

#### **C. Rationale:**

US military personnel, because of their wide range of activities, are subject to peacetime detention by unfriendly governments or captivity by terrorist groups. The guidance in this section seeks to help US military personnel survive these situations with honor and does not constitute a means for judgment or replace the UCMJ as a vehicle for enforcement of proper conduct. This guidance, although not exactly the same as the Code of Conduct, is similar in some areas, applies only during peacetime. The term "peacetime" means that armed conflict does not exist or armed conflict does exist, but the United States is not a party to the armed conflict.

#### **D. General:**

US military personnel captured or detained by hostile foreign governments or terrorists are often held for purposes of exploitation of the detainees or captives, or the US Government, or all of them. This exploitation can take many forms, but each form of exploitation is designed to assist the foreign government or the terrorist captors. In the past, detainees have been exploited for information and propaganda efforts, confessions

to crimes never committed, all of which assisted or lent credibility to the detainers. Governments also have been exploited in such situation to make damaging statements about themselves or to force them to appear weak in relation to other governments. Governments have paid ransoms for captives of terrorists and such payments have improved terrorist finances, supplies, status and operations, often prolonging the terror carried on by such groups.

#### **E. Responsibility:**

US military personnel, whether detainees or captives, can be assured that the US Government will make every good faith effort to obtain their earliest release. Faith in one's country and its way of life, faith in fellow detainees or captives, and faith in one's self are critical to surviving with honor and resisting exploitation. Resisting exploitation and having faith in these areas are the responsibility of all Americans. On the other hand, the destruction of such faith must be the assumed goal of all captors determined to maximize their gains from a detention or captive situation.

#### **F. Goal:**

Every reasonable step must be taken by US military personnel to prevent exploitation of themselves and the US Government. If exploitation cannot be prevented completely, every step must be taken to limit exploitation as much as possible. In a sense, detained US military personnel often are catalysts for their own release, based upon their ability to become unattractive sources of exploitation. That is, one that resists successfully may expect detainers to lose interest in further exploitation attempts. Detainees or captives very often must make their own judgments as to which actions will increase their chances of returning home with honor and dignity. Without exception, the military member who can say honestly that he/she has done his/her utmost in a detention or captive situation to resist exploitation upholds DOD policy, the founding principles of the US, and the highest traditions of military service.

#### **G. Military Bearing and Courtesy:**

Regardless of the type of detention or captivity, or harshness of treatment, US military personnel will maintain their military bearing. They should make every effort to remain calm and courteous, and project personal dignity. This is particularly important during the process of capture and the early stages of internment when the captor may be uncertain of his control of the captives.

#### **H. Classified Information:**

There are no circumstances in which a detainee or captive should voluntarily give classified information or materials to those unauthorized to receive them. To the utmost of their ability, US military personnel held as detainees, captives, or hostages will protect all classified information. An unauthorized disclosure of classified information, for whatever reason, does not justify further disclosures. Detainees, captives and hostages

must resist, to the utmost of their ability, each and every attempt by their captor to obtain such information.

### **I. Chain of Command:**

In group detention, captivity, or hostage situations military detainees, captives or hostages will organize, to the fullest extent possible, in a military manner under the senior military member present and eligible to command. The importance of such organization cannot be over emphasized. Historically, in both peacetime and wartime, establishment of a military chain of command has been a tremendous source of strength for all captives. Every effort will be made to establish and sustain communications with other detainees, captives, or hostages. Military detainees, captives, or hostages will encourage civilians being held with them to participate in the military organization and accept the authority of the senior military member. In some circumstances, such as embassy duty, military members may be under the direction of a senior US civilian official. Notwithstanding such circumstances, the senior military member still is obligated to establish, as an entity, a military organization and to ensure that the guidelines in support of the DOD policy to survive with honor are not compromised.

### **J. Guidance for Detention by Governments:**

Once in the custody of a hostile government, regardless of the circumstances that preceded the detention situation, detainees are subject to the laws of that government. In light of this, detainees will maintain military bearing and should avoid any aggressive, combative, or illegal behavior. The latter could complicate their situation, their legal status, and any efforts to negotiate a rapid release.

1. As American citizens, detainees should be allowed to be placed in contact with US or friendly embassy personnel. Thus, detainees should ask immediately and continually to see US embassy personnel or a representative of an allied or neutral government.

2. US military personnel who become lost or isolated in a hostile foreign country during peacetime will not act as combatants executing an evasion attempt. Since a state of armed conflict does not exist, there is no protection afforded under the Geneva Convention. The civil laws of that country apply. However, delays in contacting local authorities can be caused by injuries affecting the military member's mobility, disorientation, fear of captivity, or desire to see if a rescue attempt could be made.

3. Since the detainer's goals may be maximum political exploitation, US military personnel who are detained must be extremely cautious of their captors in everything they say and do. In addition to asking for a US representative, detainees should provide name, rank, social security number, date of birth, and the innocent circumstances leading to their detention. Further discussions should be limited to and revolve around health and welfare matters, conditions of their fellow detainees, and going home.

4. Historically, the detainers have attempted to engage military captives in what may be called a "battle of wits" about seemingly innocent and useless topics as well as provocative issues. To engage any detainer in such useless, if not dangerous, dialogue only enables a captor to spend more time with the detainee. The detainee should consider dealings with his/her captors as a "battle of wits" - the will to restrict discussion to those items that relate to the detainee's treatment and return home against the detainer's will to discuss irrelevant, if not dangerous topics.

5. As there is no reason to sign any form of document in peacetime detention, detainees will avoid signing any document or making any statement, oral or otherwise. If a detainee is forced to make a statement or sign documents, he/she must provide as little information as possible and then continue to resist to the utmost of his/her ability. If a detainee writes or signs anything, such action should be measured against how it reflects upon the US and the individual as a member of the military or how it could be misused by the detainer to further the detainer's ends.

6. Detainees cannot earn their release by cooperation. Release will be gained by the military member doing his/her best to resist exploitation, thereby reducing his/her value to a detainer, and thus prompting a hostile government to negotiate seriously with the US Government.

7. US military detainees should not refuse to accept release unless doing so requires them to compromise their honor or cause damage to the US Government or its allies. Persons in charge of detained US military personnel will authorize release of any personnel under almost all circumstances.

8. Escape attempts will be made only after careful consideration of the risk of violence, chance of success, and detrimental effects on detainees remaining behind. Jailbreak in most countries is a crime; thus, escape attempts would provide the detainer with further justification to prolong detention by charging additional violations of its criminal or civil law and result in bodily harm or even death to the detainee.

#### **K. Guidance for Captivity by Terrorists:**

Capture by terrorists is generally the least predictable and structured form of peacetime captivity. The captor qualifies as an international criminal. The possible forms of captivity vary from spontaneous hijacking to a carefully planned kidnapping. In such captivities, hostages play a greater role in determining their own fate since the terrorists in many instances expect or receive no rewards for providing good treatment or releasing victims unharmed. If US military personnel are uncertain whether captors are genuine terrorists or surrogates of government, they should assume that they are terrorists.

1. If assigned in or traveling through areas of known terrorist activity, US military personnel should exercise prudent antiterrorist measures to reduce their vulnerability to capture. During the process of capture and initial internment, they

should remain calm and courteous, since most casualties among hostages occur during this phase.

2. Surviving in some terrorist detentions may depend on hostages conveying a personal dignity and apparent sincerity to the captors. Hostages therefore may discuss non-substantive topics such as sports, family, and clothing to convey to the terrorist the captive's personal dignity and human qualities. They will make every effort to avoid embarrassing the United States and the host government. The purpose of this dialogue is for the hostage to become a "person" in the captor's eyes, rather than a mere symbol of their ideological hatred. Such a dialogue should strengthen the hostage's determination to survive and resist. A hostage also may listen actively to the terrorist's beliefs about his/her cause, however, they should never pander, praise, participate, or debate the terrorist's cause with him/her.

3. US military personnel held hostage by terrorists should accept release using guidance in paragraph J7 above. US military personnel must keep faith with their fellow hostages and conduct themselves accordingly. Hostages and kidnap victims who consider escape to be their only hope are authorized to make such attempts. Each situation will be different and the hostage must carefully weigh every aspect of a decision to attempt to escape.

## Personal Data

Law enforcement agencies need timely and accurate information to effectively work for the release of hostages. Keep this data on hand, ready to give to the military security police.

MILITARY MEMBER or DOD EMPLOYEE	SPOUSE
Full Name: _____	_____
Passport Number: _____	_____
SSN: _____	_____
Rank: _____	_____
Position: _____	_____
Home Address: _____	_____
_____	_____
Phone: _____	_____
Place of Birth: _____	_____
Date of Birth: _____	_____
Citizenship: _____	_____
Race: _____	_____
Height: _____	_____
Weight: _____	_____
Build: _____	_____
Hair Color: _____	_____
Color Eyes: _____	_____
Languages Spoken: _____	_____
_____	_____
Medical Requirements or Problems: _____	_____
Medication Required and Time Intervals: _____	_____
Provide Three Signature Samples:	
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____

Attach two photographs, one full length front view and one full length side view.  
Attach one complete finger print card.

**CHILD 1**

**CHILD 2**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Passport Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
SSN: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Race: \_\_\_\_\_  
Height: \_\_\_\_\_  
Weight: \_\_\_\_\_  
Build: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hair Color: \_\_\_\_\_  
Color Eyes: \_\_\_\_\_  
Languages Spoken: \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

Medical Requirements or  
Problems: \_\_\_\_\_  
Medication Required and  
Time Intervals: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Provide Three Signature Samples:  
1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**AUTOMOBILES OR RECREATIONAL VEHICLES**

Make and Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Color: \_\_\_\_\_

Model: \_\_\_\_\_

Doors: \_\_\_\_\_

Style: \_\_\_\_\_

License/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Distinctive Markings: \_\_\_\_\_

Make and Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Color: \_\_\_\_\_

Model: \_\_\_\_\_

Doors: \_\_\_\_\_

Style: \_\_\_\_\_

License/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Distinctive Markings: \_\_\_\_\_

Make and Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Color: \_\_\_\_\_

Model: \_\_\_\_\_

Doors: \_\_\_\_\_

Style: \_\_\_\_\_

License/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Distinctive Markings: \_\_\_\_\_

**For additional information contact your Antiterrorism Office:**

**Assistant Secretary of Defense:**  
(Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict)  
The Pentagon  
Washington DC 20301-2500  
(703) 693-2898/DSN: 223-2898

**The Joint Staff:**  
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Room 2E230, The Pentagon  
Washington DC 20318-3000  
(703) 693-7520/DSN: 223-7520

**Army:**  
Headquarters Department of the Army  
(DAMO-ODL-FP)  
400 Army, The Pentagon  
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Chief of Naval Operations (N34)  
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POS-17  
2 Navy Annex  
Washington DC 20380-1775  
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