

# INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AND SECURITY

## Missions: Not Safe but Good

A quick search produces a dozen missions organizations advertising “safe” mission trips. But they cannot guarantee this promise, nor do they have the biblical authority to do so. While these organizations make promises they cannot keep, the apostle Paul was more honest with Christians when he said, “Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” (2 Timothy 3:12). Suffering, an expected element in Christian living, should not be hidden from the faithful.

It is sad how in recent years the words sacrifice, martyr, and submission have become less popular and considered more extreme in evangelical churches. We teach believers today to avoid pain and suffering, even if it means avoiding Christian service. Hudson Taylor, the 19th century pioneer missionary, did not agree. Taylor said, “For our Master’s sake, may he make us willing to do or suffer all his will.” Jesus himself told us, “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account” (Matthew 5:11). In the next verse Christ said we should “rejoice and be glad” when we are persecuted. We were never promised a lack of pain or suffering, only the unwavering knowledge that the Creator of the Universe loves us.

### Your Body Is Not Yours

To be clear, I’m not telling you to put yourself in harm’s way. Christians should not be foolish, dangerous, or cavalier. Missionaries are no exception; we should neither crave danger nor seek martyrdom. But never forget, this body we covet and try to protect was not intended for our use, but for God’s glory.

Our modern church culture seeks false safety at the cost of service to God. We are making an idol of our control at the expense of God’s sovereignty. If God is sovereign, and he controls all, there can be no tragedy or mistake, only the divinely orchestrated rolling out of his perfect will. If we were less focused on comfort in this life and more focused on the kingdom of God, our idol of safety would not infest our decision to serve. In John Piper’s *Desiring God* he tells us, “This is God’s universal purpose for all Christian suffering: more contentment in God and less satisfaction in the world.”

God created us, breathed life into us, and purposed us for his glory. The grace and mercy he gives warrants our love and obedience. Jesus Christ endured an inconceivable persecution and death to pay for our sins. In response, we boldly proclaim his greatness.

### Missions Is Sacrifice

Missions is a form of sacrifice in the name of Jesus. However, not only missionaries are called to sacrifice. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who gave his life for Christ in Nazi Germany, said, “A Christian is someone who shares the sufferings of God in the world.” God’s love for us is deeper than any other love we have known. This comfort and joy should defeat all our fear and worry. Paul

declares, “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship” (Romans 12:1).

The Bible never says missions is safe. In Isaiah 40:9 we are instructed in a single verse to both “herald the good news” and “fear not.” Evangelism and suffering are again joined when Paul says, “As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry” (2 Timothy 4:5). We are called to make a sacrifice in our lives to help spread the gospel around the world.

Truly submitting to the gospel of Jesus can only result in a heart turned towards saving the lost, feeding the hungry, and healing the sick. Charles Spurgeon, the 19th century British preacher, said, “A man is not far from the gates of heaven when he is fully submissive to the Lord’s will.” Sacrifice in the name of missions is not seeking martyrdom—it is submitting to whatever the Lord wills in our lives.

### Christ Is Worth the Cost

According to Martin Luther, “A religion that gives nothing, costs nothing, and suffers nothing, is worth nothing.” When we can acknowledge our perceived security is false and that safety is an illusion, we can begin to risk everything and accomplish great things for God’s glory.

If you can manage your own life, you have not sold out for Jesus. The life he wants for you is full of risk and peril and requires relying on him. “God, who foresaw your tribulation, has specially armed you to go through it,” said C. S. Lewis, “not without pain but without stain.” We must trust God’s sufficiency and serve him completely, no matter the cost.

Our life on this earth is only a blip in time. We do not seek false safety and fabricated security. Glorifying God should be our purpose. In the end of life on earth we hope to hear, “Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master” (Matthew 25:21).

*By Mike Pettengill*

*“Something is wrong when our lives make sense to unbelievers.”*

*Francis Chan*

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**Learning Activity 2:**

In The Box graphic below, fill in the blanks representing the items that are safe to be included in the box. Next, fill in the blanks representing the items that are outside the box.



Info that could harm others:

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Divisive/Inflammatory Subjects:

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**BOB, INFORMATION SECURITY, MEDIA**

Your team should know how to \_\_\_\_\_ who “Bob” is.  
Make sure any computers you take on your trip are protected with \_\_\_\_\_.  
Because the news media can potentially expand our box, it is better to designate  
\_\_\_\_\_ spokesman.

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Learning Activity 3:**

In a high-pressure situation, it is always safe to retreat inside the box and the Lord. Remember, “The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble” (*Psalm 9:9*).

How would you respond to some of these more commonly asked questions?

Why are you here?

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Who gave you permission to be here?

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Where are you from?

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What do you do there?

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Do you have a family in the U.S.?

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Where do they live?

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Who is Bob? Where is Bob?

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## **PROTECTIVE MEASURES & SURVEILLANCE**

Three basic rules of thumb for protecting yourself overseas are to stay \_\_\_\_\_, be \_\_\_\_\_ and keep a \_\_\_\_\_ profile.

Philippians 2:3-4 provides a biblical basis for that last point: “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.”

Avoid \_\_\_\_\_ hangouts and hotels.

In a hotel, be cautious of \_\_\_\_\_ selling goods door to door.

As a pedestrian, walk \_\_\_\_\_ traffic.

To survive a carjacking, be willing to \_\_\_\_\_ the car.

Be the \_\_\_\_\_ of what would-be criminals want. Be a \_\_\_\_\_ target.

For further reading:  
*Prisoners of Hope* by Heather Mercer and Dana Curry

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **SURVIVING HOSTAGE SITUATIONS & MINIMIZING SEXUAL ASSAULT**

Hostages can improve their chances of surviving capture by having \_\_\_\_\_ patterns of behavior.  
Hostage takers want control and \_\_\_\_\_ prisoners.  
Above all, it is important to \_\_\_\_\_ your composure in order to pray, strategize and be seen as less of a target for unwanted attention.

Philippians 4:8 offers some good advice on that last point:  
“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.”

During a hijacking, it is wise to \_\_\_\_\_ your identity as an American, Christian or whomever the hijackers are seeking.  
Men can protect women traveling alone from sexual assault by taking on a \_\_\_\_\_ role.

For further reading:  
*Shooting the Moon* by Monique Strydom  
*In the Presence of My Enemies* by Gracia Burnham

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **UNFRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS & DEALING WITH DEMANDS FOR INFORMATION**

Government interrogators tend to be \_\_\_\_\_ and more \_\_\_\_\_ than a criminal hostage taker.  
One classic interrogation approach is good cop / \_\_\_\_\_.  
When faced with the possibility of making a forced statement, try to avoid making \_\_\_\_\_.  
Another technique is to stall and then attempt to \_\_\_\_\_ the propaganda.

“Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; therefore be shrewd as serpents, and innocent as doves” (Matthew 10:16).

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**Learning Activity 4:**

Scenario: In a coastal area, you've been working on a disaster-relief project. It's been especially hard picking through the rubble since 25 people lost their lives in the storm and dozens more were wounded or displaced from their homes.

During a much-needed break, you hear a commotion. Excitedly, you watch as survivors are being pulled from the debris. You grab your camera from your fanny pack to take pictures. A couple of armed guards who've been maintaining security in the area notice and, before you know it, you're hauled in front of a customs agent. He suspects you are a photojournalist who's there to turn the local people's pain into your profit.

How would you respond to the questions/comments below from the customs agent? Keep in mind the advice in Proverbs 15:1: "A soft answer turneth away wrath."

"So ... I understand that you've been taking some pictures today. You know, of course, that a lot of people were killed where you were doing your picture taking. So why did you do that?"

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

What exactly are you doing here?

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

Your camera seems to be a nice one. Do you use it for work?

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

Do you take pictures for other reasons?

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

"This is a big problem! You were taking pictures without permission. You share them with other people without our okay. Now your camera is my camera and everything in that pack. For right now, you're not going anywhere."

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

## **PRE-TRAVEL PLANNING**

### **1. Travel Research**

- A. Research the airports/routes you'll be traveling to.
- B. Dialing 911 doesn't function the same overseas. Know the equivalent emergency number or how to contact help another way.
- C. Have a "safe room." Ask your hosts where you should go in case of emergency.

### **2. Legal Affairs**

- A. Arrange for others to take care of your finances in your absence.
- B. Have a Power of Attorney document and keep it where a friend can access it if needed.
- C. Draft your will and keep it within access to appropriate family members.

### **3. Medicines / Health**

- A. Take extra (written or filled) prescriptions. Pack medicines in their original bottles.
- B. Take a double supply of essential medicines when possible.
- C. If you wear glasses, take an extra pair.
- D. If you wear contact lenses, bring glasses.

### **4. Insurance Options**

- A. Find out if your medical insurance provides coverage for you while you are overseas. Extraction insurance can cover medical evacuation expenses.
- B. Ransom insurance also is available. If you choose to purchase it, do not let captors know you have this as it practically guarantees a payoff to them. Let the insurer do the contacting and negotiating. Consider the moral implications of paying ransom before taking that route.

### **5. What to pack**

- A. Take only what you can manage by yourself (three or more pieces of luggage can make you more susceptible to pickpockets and other perpetrators).
- B. Put critical-need items that you can explain in your carry-on luggage.
- C. Pack clothing that respects the culture.

## **Kidnapping and Hostage Survival**

*"Kidnapping is a terrifying experience, but you probably possess more personal resources than you think to cope with the situation..."*

The chances of your being kidnapped or taken hostage are small. If it does happen, your chances of survival are high. Kidnapping is a terrifying experience, but you probably possess more personal resources than you think to cope with the situation. Remember, you are of value to those who are holding you only if you are alive, and they want to keep you that way. Your best defense is passive cooperation. The more time passes, the better your chances of being released alive.

Kidnapping can happen anywhere -- you can be taken off the street, from a car, or from your hotel room or residence. The best opportunity for escape is in the beginning, during the confusion of the apprehension while you are still in a public place. If escape is impossible or too risky, you should nevertheless try to cause as much commotion as safely possible to draw attention to the situation. You need to make others aware that an abduction has taken place so



that the authorities are notified and the search can begin. Otherwise, it could be hours or days before your absence is reported.

Once you have been forced into a vehicle, you may be blindfolded, beaten (to cause unconsciousness), drugged, or forced to lie face down on the floor of the vehicle. In some instances, hostages have been forced into trunks or specially built compartments for transporting contraband. If drugs are administered, do not resist. Their purpose will be to sedate you and make you more manageable. It is probably better to be drugged than to be beaten unconscious. If you are conscious, follow your captors' instructions.

While being confined and transported, do not struggle. Calm yourself mentally and concentrate on surviving. Attempt to visualize the route being taken, make a mental note of turns, street noise, smells, etc. Try to keep track of the amount of time spent between points. You will be asked questions about this after your release in an effort to determine where you were held.

Once you have arrived at your destination, you may be placed in a temporary holding area before being moved again to a more permanent detention site. If you are interrogated:

- Retain a sense of pride but act cooperative.
- Divulge only information that cannot be used against you. Make every effort to avoid embarrassing the U.S. and the host government.
- Do not antagonize your interrogator with obstinate behavior.
- Concentrate on surviving. If you are to be used as a bargaining tool or to obtain ransom, you will be kept alive. After reaching what you may presume to be your permanent detention site (you may be moved several more times), quickly settle into the situation.
- Be observant. Notice the details of the room, the sounds of activity in the building and determine the layout of the building by studying what is visible to you. Listen for sounds through walls, windows or out in the streets, and try to distinguish between smells. Note the number, names, physical description, accents, habits, and rank structure of your captors. Try to memorize this information so that you can report it after your release.
- Know your captors. Memorize their schedule, look for patterns of behavior to be used to your advantage, and identify weaknesses or vulnerabilities. Use this information to assess opportunities to escape.
- Expect to be accused of being an intelligence agent and to be interrogated intensively. Do not admit to any accusations. Keep your answers short and don't volunteer information or make unnecessary overtures.
- Try to establish a rapport with your captors. Family is a universal subject. So are sports and many hobbies. Your goal should be to get the hostage takers to view you as a real person, rather than simply an object. Listen actively to the terrorists' feelings and concerns, but never praise, participate in, or debate their "cause." If you know your captors' language, use it. Ask them to teach you their language.
- Speak normally. Don't complain. Avoid being belligerent and comply with all orders and instructions. Once a level of rapport or communication is achieved, try asking for items that will increase your personal comfort. Don't be afraid to ask for anything you need or want such as medicines, books, or papers. Make requests in a reasonable, low-key manner.

- Plan on a lengthy stay and devise a way to keep track of the passage of time. If isolated, you can approximate time by noting changes in temperature between night and day, the frequency and intensity of outside noises (traffic, birds), and by observing the alertness of guards.
- Establish a daily schedule of mental as well as physical exercise. If your movement is extremely limited, use isometric and flexing exercises to keep your muscles toned. To maintain your strength, eat what you are given even if it does not look appetizing and you don't feel hungry. Use relaxation techniques to reduce stress.
- If you detect the presence of other hostages in the same building, try to devise ways to communicate.
- During interrogation, do not be uncooperative, antagonistic, or hostile towards your captors. Captives who display this type of behavior are often held longer or become the object of torture or punishment. Take a simple, tenable position 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, one terrorist may play "Good Guy" and one "Bad Guy." This is the most common interrogation technique.
- Watch for signs of "Stockholm Syndrome" which occurs when the captive, due to the close proximity and the constant pressures involved, begins to relate to, and empathize with, the captors. In some cases, this relationship has resulted in the hostage becoming sympathetic to the point that he/she actively participates in the activities of the group. Establish a friendly rapport with your captors, but maintain your personal dignity and do not compromise your integrity.

If forced to present terrorist demands to authorities, either in writing or on tape, state clearly that the demands are from your captors. Avoid making a plea on your own behalf.

Be patient, as hostage negotiations are often difficult and time consuming. Remember, your chances of survival increase with time. Most episodes of kidnapping or hostage-taking end with no loss of life or physical injury to the captive. Eventually you will probably be released or rescued. Do not try to escape unless you are certain of success. If you are able to escape, go first to a U.S. Embassy or Consulate to seek protection. If you cannot reach either, go to a host government or friendly government office.

If an attempt is made to rescue you, keep a low profile and immediately follow all instructions. Rescue will generally be attempted only after negotiations have failed. That means that lives of hostages, terrorists, and rescue forces are all at risk during the rescue. You don't want to be shot in the confusion while the rescue team identifies the terrorists, who may try to disguise themselves as hostages. To protect yourself, follow these rules:

- **DO NOT RUN.** Drop to the floor and remain still. If that is not possible, cross your arms on your chest, bow your head, and stand still. Make no sudden moves that a tense rescuer may interpret as hostile.
- Wait for instructions and obey all instructions you are given.
- Don't be upset if a rescuer isn't sure whether you are a terrorist or hostage. Even if you are handcuffed and searched, do not resist. Just wait for the confusion to cease. 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 their 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. Since the detainer's goals may be maximum political exploitation, Fusion 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, 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 American 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 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 Christian 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 Fusion team member doing his/her best to resist exploitation, thereby reducing his/her value to a detainer, and thus prompting a hostile government or criminal element to negotiate seriously with the US Government.
7. Detainees should not refuse to accept release unless doing so requires them to compromise their honor or cause damage to the US Government or the IMB. Persons in charge of detained Fusion 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.

## **Guidance for Captivity by Terrorists**

Capture by terrorists is generally the least predictable and structured form of 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 you 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, Fusion 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.

## **Hijacking Survival**

Hijacking is extremely rare, but it does happen. It is well to consider how you should react if you end up being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

The physical takeover of the aircraft by the hijackers may be accompanied by noise, commotion, and possibly shooting and yelling, or it may be quiet and methodical with little more than an announcement by a crew member. Either way, how you and others react during these first few minutes of the hijacking may be crucial to the outcome.

The guidance below focuses on avoiding violence and achieving a peaceful resolution to a hijacking. This guidance was developed prior to September 11, 2001 when two hijacked airliners were flown into the World Trade Center and one into the Pentagon. Since then, there has been considerable public discussion of a more active and aggressive reaction to the initial announcement that a plane is being hijacked. As of this writing, the U.S. Government and the IMB has not developed new guidelines for how to react to a hijacking. The appropriate reaction may depend upon the presumed purpose of the hijacking – is the hijackers' goal a suicide mission to use the airplane itself as a bomb? Take hostages to gain publicity for a political movement? Or a simple desire to escape to another country?

Remember that the hijackers will be extremely nervous and probably as scared as you are. Although they may appear calm, they cannot be trusted to behave reasonably or rationally. Fear can trigger a disaster. One wrong move by either a victim or a hijacker could easily set off a defensive state of violence. To promote a peaceful resolution of the situation, follow these guidelines.

- Stay calm and encourage others around you to do the same.
- Do not challenge the hijackers physically or verbally. Comply with their instructions. Do not struggle or try to escape unless you are absolutely certain of success.
- If shooting occurs, keep your head down or drop to the floor. Once the takeover of the aircraft has occurred, passengers may be separated by citizenship, sex, race, etc. Your passport may be confiscated and your carry-on luggage ransacked. The aircraft may be diverted to another country. The hijackers may enter into a negotiation phase which could last indefinitely and/or the crew may be forced to fly the aircraft to a different destination. During this phase passengers may be used as a bargaining tool in negotiations, lives may be threatened, or a number of passengers may be released in exchange for fuel, landing/departure rights, food, etc. This will be the longest phase of the hijacking.
- If you are told to keep your head down or maintain another body position, talk yourself into relaxing into the position. You may need to stay that way for some time.
- 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.
- Prepare yourself mentally and emotionally for a long ordeal with possible verbal or physical abuse, lack of food and drink, and unsanitary conditions.
- Blend in with the other airline passengers. Avoid eye contact with your captors. Don't draw attention to yourself with sudden body movements, verbal remarks, or hostile looks.
- If addressed by the hijackers, respond in a calm tone of voice. If interrogated, keep answers short and limited to nonpolitical topics. Minimize the importance of your job. Give innocuous reasons for traveling. Never admit to any accusations.
- Do not attempt to hide your passport or belongings. If you are carrying an official passport (or a military ID) and a tourist passport, give your tourist passport in response to a general demand for identification. Confirm your military status if directly confronted with the fact. In that case, be prepared to explain that you always travel on your personal passport and that no deceit was intended.
- Use your time wisely by observing the characteristics and behavior of the hijackers, mentally attach nicknames to each one and notice their dress, facial features and temperaments. Occupy your mind by memorizing this information so that you can report it after your release.
- If you or a nearby passenger are in need of assistance due to illness or discomfort, solicit the assistance of a crew member first -- do not attempt to approach a hijacker unless similar assistance has been rendered by them for other passengers.
- If you are singled out by the hijackers, be responsive but do not volunteer information. The last phase of the hijacking is resolution, either by a hostage rescue team or through negotiation. In the latter instance, the hijackers may simply surrender to authorities or abandon the aircraft, crew and passengers. The following guidelines apply in the case of a rescue operation. The rescue may be similar to the hijacker's takeover -- noisy, chaotic, and possibly with shooting. The rescue force is re-taking control of the aircraft. The

termination of any hijacking incident is extremely tense. If an assault force attempts a rescue, it is imperative that you remain calm and out of the way. Make no sudden moves or take any action by which you could be mistaken for a terrorist and risk being injured or killed.

- If you hear shots fired inside or outside the aircraft, immediately take a protective position — put your head down or drop to the floor.
- If instructed by a rescue force to move, do so quickly, putting your hands up in the air or behind your head.
- If fire or smoke appears, attempt to get emergency exits open and use the inflatable slides or exit onto the wing.
- Once you are on the tarmac, follow the instructions of the rescue force or local authorities. If neither is there to guide you, move as quickly as possible away from the aircraft and eventually move towards the terminal or control tower area.
- Initially, the rescue force may have no way of knowing whether you are a hijacker or a victim. They may treat you as a hijacker or co-conspirator until they can determine that you are not part of the hijacking team.
- Cooperate with local authorities and members of the U.S. Embassy, Consulate or other U.S. agencies in relating information about the hijacking.

### **What to Do if Arrested**

Foreign police and intelligence agencies can detain persons for many reasons, or for no reason other than suspicion or curiosity. In some countries where security organs have sweeping powers to detain persons believed to be a threat to national security, virtually any government document or official statistic falls under the definition of "state secret." American standards of what is "open information" do not apply in many foreign countries.

If arrested, follow these guidelines.

- Ask to contact the nearest American Embassy or Consulate. As a citizen of another country, you have this right; but that does not mean that your hosts will allow you to exercise that right. If you are refused or just ignored, continue to make the request periodically until they accede and let you contact the embassy or consulate.
- Ask to contact your "BOB". If you are refused or just ignored, continue to make the request periodically until they accede and let you contact BOB.
- Stay calm, maintain your dignity and do not do anything to provoke the arresting officer(s).
- Do not admit anything or volunteer any information.
- Do not sign anything. Often, part of the detention procedure is to ask or tell the detainee to sign a written report. Decline politely until such time as the document is examined by an attorney or an embassy/consulate representative.
- Do not accept anyone on face value. When the embassy or consulate representative arrives, request some identification before discussing your situation.
- Do not fall for the ruse of helping the ones who are detaining you in return for your release. They can be very imaginative in their proposals on how you can be of assistance to them. Do not sell yourself out by agreeing to anything. If they will not take no for an answer, do not make a firm commitment or sign anything. Tell them that you will think it

over and let them know. Once out of their hands, contact the American Embassy or Consulate for protection and assistance in getting out of the country.

### **Carjacking and Kidnapping from Your Car**

One common method of kidnapping favored by terrorist organizations is to stop a victim's car as it is driving along a predictable route. That's why it is important to vary your route frequently.

Check occasionally to see if another car is following you. If you think you are being followed, circle the block or change directions several times to confirm the presence of surveillance. Make note of a description of the car and its occupants, if possible. It is okay to let the surveillants know you have seen them, but do not under any circumstances take any action that might provoke them or that could lead to confrontation. If they do not stop following you, drive directly to the nearest safe haven, such as a U.S. Embassy or consulate and advise the appropriate security or police authorities. Consider carrying a cell phone.

Learn to recognize and be alert to events that could signal the start of a plan to stop your car and take you captive. Such events include a cyclist falling in front of your car, a flagman or workman stopping your car, an unusual detour, a fake police or government checkpoint, road blocked by a disabled vehicle or accident victim, an accident in which your car is deliberately struck, cars or pedestrian traffic that box you in, or any sudden activity or gunfire. Unusual and unexplained absence of local citizens may also precede a terrorist attack.

If you determine you are under attack, you will have to make an instantaneous decision without time to carefully weigh all the consequences. You can prepare yourself to make this decision by rehearsing in your mind, in advance, how you will react under various possible circumstances.

You won't have many options. You can sound the horn to draw attention to your car. This will, at least, help ensure there will be witnesses to observe and report what happened. You can make a quick U- turn and try to escape. If you need to jump the curb, hit it at a 30-45 degree angle and maximum speed of 35 mph. If your path is blocked by a vehicle across the road, you can, at some risk to yourself and any passengers, ram the blocking vehicle in an effort to spin it out of the way. Hit the other vehicle on an angle, with the impact focused on the wheel you want to move out of the way.

### **Car Bombing**

A terrorist can't plant a bomb in your car without having access to the car, so routine security measures against car theft are doubly relevant in areas where you might become a terrorist target. Always lock your car. Don't leave it on the street overnight, if possible. If you have to leave a key with a parking attendant, be sure to leave only the ignition key. Never leave your garage doors open or unlocked.

Lock your gas cap and put a bolt through the tailpipe. This will make bomb placement more difficult. Don't allow anyone to have access to the trunk unless you are there to observe.

When parking your car in an open area, check the area for suspicious persons before getting out. If in doubt, drive away. When you return to your car after it has been parked in an open area, do a walk-around inspection of the vehicle before you get it. In a high risk area, you may wish to look under the car for any evidence of unusual wires or tape.

### **Theft While Traveling**

Your information and valuables are far more vulnerable to theft while traveling abroad than targets for theft include:

- Government and business documents of interest to the local intelligence service.
- Personal documents (passport and other ID and travel documents) of interest to criminal organizations, including those that arrange illegal immigration to the U.S.
- Laptop computers are of interest to everyone
- Expensive jewelry, cameras, and any other items easy to sell. You have special vulnerabilities in your hotel room, elsewhere in your hotel, while in the airport or on the train, with sensitive equipment in transit, and in any office to which local foreign nationals have unrestricted access.

### **Hotel Rooms and Vaults**

"Bag operations" is the term commonly used to describe surreptitious entry into hotel rooms to steal, photograph, or photocopy documents; steal or copy magnetic media; or download from laptop computers. Bag operations are common. In fact, they are routine procedure in quite a few countries.

Bag operations are typically conducted by the host government's security or intelligence service, frequently with cooperation of the hotel staff. Hotel security staffs commonly maintain close contact with the local police and government security service. It is common for retired government security and intelligence officers to obtain employment in the security offices of major hotels and corporations. Bag operations may also be conducted by the corporation you are dealing with or by a competitor company. They may be done during the day while you are out of the room or at night while you are asleep. Yes, they do take the risk of coming into your room while you are sleeping!

Government and business travelers often report that their belongings have been in their hotel room. In some cases, they have returned to their room soon after departing, to retrieve a forgotten item, and find persons in their room claiming they are there to repair a broken TV, etc. Seldom is anything only to copy documents or download information from a traveler's laptop computer. Sometimes there is little effort to conceal the search. Other times it is more subtle. If done correctly, the traveler will not be aware of the search.

Leaving sensitive information in your hotel room, even in a locked briefcase or the safe provided in your room, is an invitation for material to be copied or photographed while you are out. Hotel vaults are not much better. In most cases, foreign intelligence officers can gain access to hotel lockboxes or vaults without you becoming aware of the compromise.

Never leave a laptop computer with sensitive information on it in the room unattended. Keep it in your personal possession at all times or don't take it on the trip. If you must take a laptop, use



encryption to protect sensitive files and perform regular backups to ensure no loss of vital information in case of theft.

Suitcase and attaché case locks may delay the trained professional for a few minutes but will not protect your sensitive information. Nevertheless, it is wise to keep your luggage locked whenever you are out of the room. Although locks will not inhibit the professional thief or intelligence agent, they will keep the curious maid honest. Curious hotel employees are even more likely to remain honest if combination locks are set so that the combination for each piece of luggage is different. For attaché cases with two combination locks, use different combinations for each lock.

The only solution to the security problem is to take as little sensitive information as possible when traveling overseas, and to carry what you must take on your person, possibly on computer media. Computer diskettes and CD If you must carry sensitive information, the following suggestions may be helpful.

While asleep or in the shower, engage both the dead bolt and the privacy latch or chain on the hotel room door. A hotel's emergency keys can override the dead bolt locks, so the latch or chain is your principal source of security. (Note: Many hotel rooms have a door to a connecting room. This is a potential vulnerability, as these doors do not normally have a privacy latch or chain.)

- Utilize a portable or improvised burglar alarm while asleep. Two ash trays and a water glass are quite effective as an alarm when placed on the floor in front of the door into your room. Place a water glass in one ashtray and balance the second ashtray on top of the glass. If a straight chair is available, place it next to the door and put the ash tray/water glass alarm on the edge of the chair where it will fall with enough racket to wake you.
- When leaving the room, make a mental or written note of how your suitcase or other personal property that would not normally be touched by the cleaning personnel was left. Any movement might suggest that others were in the room to examine your belongings. The same procedure is even more effective to check for surreptitious entry while you were asleep.
- Jewelry or other valuables should normally be left at home, but you may need to protect a substantial amount of money. Guidelines for protecting money from thieves are different from those for protecting sensitive information from the local intelligence or security service. Money should not be kept on your person. It should be kept in a safe in a local office or in the hotel's safe deposit box or safe. This is safer than a room safe and may also make the hotel liable for any loss. Liability laws in many countries provide that the hotel is not liable for the loss of guest property unless it is in the "care, custody and control of the hotel." Additional protection may be gained by double enveloping all valuables, initialing across the seams, and then taping all edges and seams (over the initials).
- If you determine that an item is missing, conduct a thorough search prior to reporting the incident to hotel security. Do not expect to receive a copy of the security report, as it is an internal document. The incident should be reported to the local police, the security officer at the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate, and your insurance carrier. Hotel security can provide a letter verifying that you reported property missing.

## **Elsewhere in the Hotel**

There are a number of areas of your hotel where you are particularly vulnerable to theft.

- **Rest Rooms:** Female travelers should be careful about placing purses on hangers on the inside of the lavatory doors or on the floor in stalls -- two frequent locations for grab and run thefts. On occasion, unauthorized persons use rest rooms for other types of theft or to deal drugs or engage in prostitution. **Public Telephones:** Areas around public telephones are often used by criminals to stage pickpocket activity or theft. Keep briefcases and purses in view or "in touch" while using phones. Safeguard your telephone credit card numbers. Criminals sometimes hang around public telephones to gather credit card numbers and then sell the numbers for unauthorized use.
- **Hotel Bars and Restaurants:** Purse snatchers and briefcase thieves are known to work hotel bars and restaurants waiting for unknowing guests to drape these items on chairs or under tables, only to discover them missing as they are departing. Keep items in view or "in touch". Be alert to scams involving an unknown person spilling a drink or food on your clothing. An accomplice may be preparing to steal your wallet, briefcase or purse.
- **Pool or Beach Areas:** These are fertile areas for thieves to take advantage of guests enjoying recreation. Leave valuables in the hotel. Safeguard your room key and camera. Sign for food and beverages on your room bill rather than carry cash.
- **Prostitutes** take advantage of travelers around the world through various ploys, including use of "knock out" drugs and theft from the victim's room. Avoid engaging persons you do not know and refrain from inviting them to your guest room.

## **Airports and Trains**

Airports, railroad terminals and trains are easy target baggage is an obvious risk. Checked baggage is also at risk and should never contain valuables such as a camera or sensitive papers. It is not unusual for government and business travelers to read contents. Theft from sleeping compartments on trains is surprisingly common. Train thieves spray chemicals inside sleeping compartments to render the occupant(s) unconscious and valuables can be stolen from under a sleeping person's pillow. A locked door may be helpful but is no guarantee.

According to Safeware, an insurer of personal computers, 10% of all laptop thefts occur in airports. Airports offer an inviting atmosphere for thieves due to large crowds, hectic schedules, and weary travelers. Laptop thefts commonly occur in places where people set them down -- at security checkpoints, pay phones, lounges and restaurants, check-in lines, and restrooms. Two incidents at separate European airports demonstrate the modus operandi of thieves operating in pairs to target laptop computers:

- Airport security at Brussels International Airport reported that two thieves exploited a contrived delay around the security X-ray machines. The first thief preceded the traveler through the security checkpoint and then loitered around the area where security examines carry the conveyer belt of the X-ray machine, the second detector. With the traveler now delayed, the first thief removed the traveler's laptop from the conveyer belt just after it passed through the X-ray machine and quickly disappeared.
- While walking around the Frankfurt International Airport in Germany, a traveler carrying a laptop computer in his roll bag did not notice a thief position himself to walk in front of him. The thief stopped abruptly as the traveler bypassed a crowd of people, causing

quickly removed the traveler's laptop computer from his roll bag and disappeared into the crowd.

All travelers, both domestic and international, should be alert to any sudden diversions when traveling, especially when transiting transportation terminals. If victimized, travelers should report the thefts immediately to the authorities and be able to provide the makes, model information, and serial numbers of their laptop computers, or any other items of value.

### **Overseas Communications**

Many foreign telecommunications companies are owned or controlled by the government. Even those not government owned or controlled are regulated by the government and will normally cooperate when their assistance in monitoring specific lines.

Under these circumstances, it is easy to intercept and monitor telephone, fax, electronic communications. A typical communications monitoring scenario might

- A foreign intelligence service rents an office near the targeted office or home or in another location selected to provide easy access to telecommunications facilities or transmissions from the target.
- An electronic listening post is set up in the office and manned around the clock. The listening post eavesdrops on telephone, fax, telex, and computer communications.
- Computers screen all communications and pick out those that are potentially valuable by identifying key words such as the name of a company, person, technology, product, project, or anything else that may identify a topic of interest to the monitoring organization or its customers.
- Interesting communications are recorded and screened manually for the preparation of written countries, a principal goal is to support national businesses by providing them with information on such things as their foreign competitors' technology, marketing plans, prices, bids, and negotiating strategies.

Government programs to intercept foreign telecommunications are now standard practice in many countries. Global economic competition, the great increase in global telecommunications, and the development of computer search engines to screen massive amounts of electronic material increasing number of countries to develop extensive intercept programs.

The cost and technology for developing a significant intercept capability is now well within the capability of many corporations, criminal syndicates, or terrorist groups in addition to foreign governments. The equipment for this can be obtained easily by almost anyone.

*"We can rest confident in the fact that nothing will happen to us in this world apart from the gracious will of a sovereign God. Nothing."*

*David Platt*

**PLEASE LEAVE THIS DOCUMENT AND ALL TRAINING MATERIALS AT HOME.  
Do not under any circumstances take these materials on your trip overseas.**