

Make safety part of your holiday plans

By Tom Vinette, Installation Antiterrorism Officer 29 November 2018



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The holidays are a great time to enjoy activities with friends and family, but it's not the time to let your guard down when it comes to safety and your surroundings. Here are a few things to consider when planning or taking part in holiday activities:

- Dust off family emergency plans, practice them, and know where everyone is and how to communicate with them.
- Share travel routes, destinations and timelines with trusted others in case there is an emergency during a trip.
- Know your surroundings and be vigilant for aggressive or violent behavior at any venue. (Malls, Parties, Concert Halls, Houses of Worship or Seasonal oriented functions).
- Avoid Aggressive Drivers.
- Use caution on unprotected Pedestrian or Bicycle Lanes.
- Secure Identification badges or name tapes when not at your place of employment. Consider removing Military affiliation from vehicles such as bumper stickers or window decals.
- When making reservations for personal travel, hotels, or restaurants do not affiliate the reservation with your place of work or Government Office.
- Know where the entrances and exits are in case of an emergency.
- Know where the nearest Police or Security personnel are located.
- Use Caution with mail and packages, consider deliveries to alternate addresses to avoid theft and suspicion of unscheduled deliveries.

As always the concept of '[See Something, Say Something](#)' is key to everyone's safety. Remember that saying something to someone is letting

the right people know that there is something suspicious or out of place. A policeman or security officer, desk clerk, or other employee at a venue can begin the actions required to stop an incident before it happens. Make sure everyone in your family knows how to report something that doesn't look right and call 911 for emergencies and or immediate dangerous situations.

Dangerous situations can be identified and stopped before they cause injury or damage by being mindful of the **Indicators of a potential insider threat**. Some warning signs are:

- Encouraging disruptive behavior or disobedience to lawful orders.
- Expressing sympathy for organizations that promote violence.
- Associating with or expressing loyalty or support for terrorists.
- Browsing websites that promote or advocate violence against the U.S.
- Advocating violence to achieve political / religious / ideological goals.
- Seeking spiritual sanctioning for or a voicing an obligation to engage in violence in support of a radical or extremist organization or cause.
- Membership in a violent, extremist or terrorist group, or adopting an ideology that advocates violence, extremism, or radicalism.
- Having ties to known or suspected international terrorists, extremists, radicals, or their supporters.
- A person who exhibits severe signs of PTSD, and who appears disgruntled and violent.

This is a reminder that violence and the potential for disruptive behavior could happen at any time and in any circumstance. These are a few things to keep in mind to have a safe Christmas and Holiday Season.

For more information you may contact; Thomas R. Vinette, Installation Antiterrorism Officer, Building 22, Room 112, 22 Ashburn Drive, USAG Carlisle Barracks PA, or by phone at Desk: (717) 245-4011, DSN: 242-4011, Cell: (717) 609-9044.