

Antiterrorism expert: Don't get complacent, do your part for all of us

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Carlisle Barracks, Pa. -- Today's national security threats as being more complex and more dynamic than any other time in history. The Army and the Army War College are observing August as Antiterrorism Awareness Month in a deliberate effort to remind people of the important responsibility to know the possible threats, and be vigilant every day.

"Pay attention to your surroundings and watch for things that are out of the ordinary," said Judd Sweitzer, who manages the Antiterrorism and OPSEC Program for the U.S. Army War College. "Be aware, alert, and informed. If something does not look or seem quite right, it probably isn't. That doesn't necessarily mean it's a direct threat, but it may be an indicator of some form of activity that is outside the norm.

"We live in a generally quiet community and area, yet it is absolutely possible that something could happen here," he said.

Be alert for –

- People drawing, measuring, or photographing buildings.
- Someone loitering for an extended period of time without explanation.
- Questions about security forces or security procedures.
- A briefcase, suitcase, backpack or package left unattended.
- Cars or trucks parked in odd locations.
- Personnel secure areas without the proper credentials.
- Personnel who appear out of place for their environment.

“A key element to success in antiterrorism is the involvement of all community members in recognizing a potential risk or suspicious activity and, most importantly, doing something about it,” said Sweitzer.

- Be observant: this is your community.
- Remember details about people, places, conversations and vehicles: those details may be relevant.
- Report suspicious activity on base immediately: tell your supervisor, the Carlisle Barracks police desk – **717.245.4115**.
- Off-base, report to law enforcement and, then your supervisor.

“We all get complacent at times and neglect to see things that could be a danger to ourselves or others. It’s also easy in today’s social and political environment to dismiss potential indicators or violence or threats as just rhetoric,” said Sweitzer.

“If we all pay a little more attention, our entire community is stronger and safer.”