

LIS SOLUTIONS SECURITY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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ANTITERRORORISM PROGRAM

The Antiterrorism Program is a collective, proactive effort focused on the prevention and detection of terrorist attacks against personnel, their families, facilities, installations, and the infrastructure that is critical to a mission's accomplishment.

The Antiterrorism Program also provides for the preparation to defend against and planning for the response to the consequences of terrorist incidents. Here are some of the key areas to understand within the Antiterrorism Program:

Tools to Safeguard Assets

Two of the key tools to safeguard assets are the Terrorist Threat Levels and Force Protection Conditions (FPCONs). Terrorist Threat Levels are analytical assessments of terrorist activity. They are a set of standard terms used to quantify the level of terrorism threat on a country-by-country basis.

FPCONs are graduated categories of measures or actions commanders take to protect personnel and assets from attack. The measures add progressive levels of countermeasures in response to a terrorist threat to U.S. military facilities and personnel.

Threat Levels Defined

Terrorist Threat Levels should not be confused with the Threat Conditions associated with the National Homeland Security Advisory System. Terrorist Threat Levels are identified as Low, Moderate, Significant, and High.

- ▶ Low signifies no terrorist group is detected or there is a low risk of terrorist attack.
- ▶ Moderate signifies terrorists are present, but there are no indications of terrorist activity and the Operating Environment favors the host nation or the U.S.
- ▶ Significant means either that terrorists are present and attacking personnel is their preferred method of operation, or that a terrorist group uses large casualty producing attacks as their preferred method but has limited operational activity. The Operating Environment is neutral.
- ▶ High signifies terrorists are operationally active and use large casualty-producing attacks as their preferred method of operation. There is a substantial DoD presence, and the Operating Environment favors the terrorist.

Terrorist Threat Levels

Terrorist threat levels are based on a continuous intelligence analysis of a minimum of four elements pertaining to terrorist groups: operational capability, intentions, activity, and operational environment.

As defined by the DoD, there are four Terrorist Threat Levels: Low, Moderate, Significant, and High. Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) or the Combatant Commanders (COCOMs) use Defense Terrorism Warning Reports to convey these Terrorist Threat Levels. The DIA sets the DoD Terrorist Threat Level identifying potential risk to DoD interests in a particular country, regardless of whether U.S. personnel are present in the country. COCOMs with geographic responsibilities may also set Terrorist Threat Levels for specific personnel, family members, units, and installations in countries within their area of responsibility, using the definitions established by the DIA.



To learn more about the Antiterrorism Program, here are a few articles to read at your Leisure:

1. **United States Department of Justice.** (2023, April 14). Sinaloa cartel leaders charged with narco-terrorism, material support of terrorism, and drug trafficking offenses. <https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdca/pr/sinaloa-cartel-leaders-charged-narco-terrorism-material-support-terrorism-and-drug-0>
2. **Federal Bureau of Investigation.** (2024, April 24). FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force arrests local man for possession of unregistered destructive device. <https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices/cincinnati/news/fbi-joint-terrorism-task-force-arrests-local-man-for-possession-of-unregistered-destructive-device>