

Tactical Advice for Preparing and Handling a Terrorist Attack – [iJet](#) Special Report 3/23/17

Although it is impossible to predict where and when the next terrorist incident may occur, there are measures individuals can take to reduce the risk of becoming involved, as well as strategies to assist recovery efforts if an attack occurs. iJET's Security Operations team offers the following advice for consideration.

Before You Go:

- Identify a friend or family member as a support person for your trip. Provide that individual with your itinerary and copies of your passport and visas. Save electronic copies of these documents that can reside in your phone, not in the cloud.
- Photocopy the contents of your wallet including credit cards, insurance information, travel documents, etc. Email this information to yourself.
- Prepare or review and update your will, power of attorney, and other related documents. Ensure your passport has 510 pages left and is valid for at least six months.
- Program into your phone contact information for your host, members of your party, nearest diplomatic mission, and other trusted local contacts. Print and carry a paper copy.
- Schedule flights that arrive and depart during offpeak travel times. These times may vary from airport to airport.
- Be aware of and prepared to use alternative transportation options should flights be canceled. Prearrange airport transfers.
- Have your transportation contact email you a picture of your driver, the vehicle to be used, and the license plate.
- Select hotels that have been vetted by a reputable travel security company.
- Prebook your first night's hotel stay. Request a room near the stairs or fire exit away from the street or entrance; ideally your room should be between the second and seventh floor.
- If available, enroll in diplomatic mission travel security programs (e.g. STEP Program). At a minimum, register your trip with your diplomatic mission and include contact information and itinerary.
- Maintain a small survival kit at all times. Water, protein bar or nuts, emergency blanket, first aid kit, flashlight, cell phone, whistle, a solar charging device, and local currency.
- Print, carry, and learn to read maps of the cities/areas you will visit. Plan your routes.

Departure and Arrival:

- Minimize your time in the common areas of airports, which are less protected.
- Move quickly from the secured official and baggage claim areas through the lobby and to your transportation. Leave the airport as soon as possible.
- Use airline lounges/clubs, if possible. Sit on the periphery of the club, away from food and drink areas.
- Minimize time spent in public access areas, such as ticketing areas. Move to and through security checkpoints as quickly as possible.
- Avoid nearby incidents of any kind, as situations can escalate without warning.
- Avoid crowded areas. If you must be in a crowded area, position yourself near an exit or other egress point, preferably at the edge or on the periphery of a crowd.
- Note sudden increases in security presence/activities.
- Trust your instincts. Avoid people who appear suspicious or act differently than the crowd. Avoid using luggage tags identifying you as an obvious foreigner. Luggage tags should be covered to protect your contact information and address.

- Maintain a low profile; avoid dress, including clothing with logos, and behavior identifying you as an obvious foreigner.
- Maintain contact with other members of your party; call and text them upon arrival.

While at Your Destination:

- Maintain situational awareness; always be prepared to run or hide from a threat. Know the room numbers of all of your colleagues.
- Leave the TV on and place the Do Not Disturb sign on the door when leaving your room. Always lock the hotel room door, as well as any doors between adjacent rooms; use all available locks. Consider traveling with a rubber doorstop for added security on inward swinging doors.
- Ask your hotel staff where foreigners usually congregate, and minimize time spent in those places, especially if there is known animosity in a country against your nationality or ethnicity. Be cautious about discussing personal matters, your itinerary, or arrangements with strangers or those who may overhear you.
- Be sure of the identity of visitors before opening the door of your hotel room.
- Refuse unexpected packages or visits from unknown people, businesses, or organizations; have all packages and correspondence delivered to the reception desk.
- Be aware of people following you or of loiterers observing your comings and goings.
- Plot police stations, hospitals that treat foreigners, major hotels and other safe havens on your paper map and in your phone's GPS.
- Do not meet strangers at unknown or remote locations; to the extent possible, select the meeting location yourself.
- Enlist your hotel or host in helping you select and make arrangements for taxis. Do not enter a vehicle you believe to be a taxi unless it is clearly identified.
- Before closing the door to a taxi, compare the face of the driver with the one posted on the displayed license; if the two do not match, do not accept the ride.

Driving:

- Avoid driving in foreign countries, if at all possible.
- If you must drive, use a remote start if available and look for signs of tampering or other suspicious activity around your car before entering it (e.g. unexplained finger prints on hoods/trunks/lower door frames, tools or tool marks, screws, pieces of tape or wires, etc.) Look for dirt and debris that may have fallen from underneath the car.
- Ensure that your vehicle is in good operating condition and that the fuel tank is at least half full. Carry food, water, blankets, and a flashlight for all occupants of the car.
- Avoid driving or riding in luxury or ostentatious vehicles.
- Alter the times, routes, and modes of transportation when repeatedly traveling to and from the same place.
- When traveling long distances by automobile, try to do so in a convoy of two or more vehicles. Geotag your photos during long drives or excursions, and upload them securely to your support person.
- To the extent possible, avoid using back country or deserted roads, especially at night. Driving in the center lane of a multiple lane highway makes it more difficult for your car to be forced off the road.
- In crowded streets, always drive with windows up and doors locked. Bombs and other objects can be thrown through open windows. Unlocked doors can be easily opened from the outside during stops or in traffic jams.

If Involved in a Terrorist Incident:

- Remain calm by breathing in for four seconds, holding for four seconds and exhaling for four seconds several times after an attack.
- Silence your phone.

- Physically check yourself and travel party for wounds or injuries prior to moving. If possible, contact your nearest diplomatic mission, and ask for guidance.
- If there is a disturbance outside your hotel, keep your drapes closed, and stay away from the windows. Extinguish all lights. If you must have some light, turn on the bathroom light and crack the door. Assemble your traveling companions in one room.
- If you hear an explosion, resist the urge to look out the window. A second, and usually more violent, explosion follows many bombings. Seek shelter in your bathroom or, if possible, an interior stairwell.
- If gunfire occurs, drop to the floor, or get down as low as possible, and try to shield yourself behind or under a solid object such as a heavy piece of furniture.
- Follow all instructions and orders from terrorists or responders.
- Remain sheltered in a secure location until you are certain the danger has passed.

Do not attempt to help emergency responders, and do not pick up a weapon.