

FORCE PROTECTION PLAN

The Force Protection plan requires engaging the brain, thinking the unthinkable. Read about where you are going, think about the risks and then address them. The threats in Africa are real. You may never have a problem. This preparation helps to ensure you won't. **You are your own best protection.**

Ideally, the chain of command or the approver, engages the brain and asks questions, but they may not. They may be busy, they may see a completed form and assume it covers all bases, they may assume someone between you and them has reviewed it, or they may even be afraid of offending you if they ask questions. Don't be that supervisor yourself- ask questions, read the plan. Safety is important. Your example is important. Don't let this just become an administrative exercise, where the only focus is getting approval and getting it out of the way.

Review Country Warnings and Threats:

- Read Foreign Clearance Guide (FCG) Sections I& VI for each country to be visited/transited:
 - <https://www.fcg.pentagon.mil> or SIPR <http://www.fcg.pentagon.smil.mil>
- Check to FPCON Level of each country to be visited. [FPCON MAP AFRICOM AOR](#)
NOTE: FPCON only assesses **TERRORIST** threat. It does not consider **criminality, health or political instability**, all of which can be serious on the continent.
- Classified site with FP Info: <https://portal.africom.smil.mil/orgs/oplog/at/default.aspx> and <http://maps.eucom.smil.mil/ATFP/index.cfm> - or -Unclassified site: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>
- Read Department of State (DoS) Travel Warnings: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html#
- Read DoS Country Specific Information: http://travel.state.gov/travel/travel_1744.html (ULAN)
- Get a Country threat brief from your security officer. Use JRAMP: <http://jramp.africom.smil.mil/JRAMP/> (SLAN)

FP Plan basics:

Your organization may have a preferred format, but read through this so you are prepared to edit if it is missing all hazards type info. Many FP Plans only focus on terrorism, but criminality, health issues also pose risks for which the traveler should plan and prepare.

The FP Plan should be written and consider all hazards (SPECIFIC FOR EACH COUNTRY VISITED):

1. Include embassy physical address, contact numbers and 24 hour marine guard number or switchboard number (even if you aren't going to the Embassy, you need their contact info if you are in trouble/picked up by authorities.)
2. If on leave to family/friend, state you will provide this info to them and tell them if there is an emergency and you cannot contact the Embassy that they should do it for you (could also be a tour company/guide).
3. On FP plan list all your in country contact info - hotel, physical address, phone, email or if visiting a person, that person's name, relationship, physical address and contact number. Do this for each location on your full itinerary.
4. Look at Section VI info in the FCG and list the important elements. Identify if there are Travel Warnings and particular concerns listed. Address mitigations for particular issues - it may include "no go" areas or activities, places to avoid or situations to be on alert for (e.g., crowds)
 - 4.a. If it lists a "911" equivalent in the country or other emergency numbers, list it/them in the plan.
 - 4.b. if it has other numbers or information you as a traveler should have, then list them.
5. Identify medical precautions and see health care provider for required meds. Read FCG Section I. C. IMMUNIZATIONS AND OTHER MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS and SECTION VI.E. HEALTH THREATS for each of

the countries to be visited. Be aware of health threats (water, sanitation, disease), consider behavioral threats - HIV/AIDS is critical in many parts of Africa.

5.a. Complete [Traveler Preparation Checklist](#). State whether medical vaccinations are up to date and if you have malaria meds if required.

5.b. Make sure you have a basic 1st aid kit with you (don't count on having antidiarrheals, antiseptics, aspirin, sunscreen, insect repellent readily available at destination.)

5.c.. If it has a TRICARE International SOS number for Active duty members, list it. For those not active duty, think and identify how you be able to respond to a medical emergency. If you have purchased emergency medical travel insurance, identify how you access it and let others know who are with you. In Africa, issues that could be taken care of elsewhere could require evacuation, depending on the location and local capabilities.

6. Identify precautions you will take to prevent becoming a victim of criminality - an ACTIVE THREAT in most of Africa. Be situationally aware and decide beforehand about jewelry, wear of cell phones, and whether use of public transportation and taxis is advisable.

7. Identify if you have Personnel Recovery (PR) Plan and who you filed it with – PR preparation is required to prepare for a situation when a traveler needs to be located after they become isolated, whether through accident (e.g., vehicle breaks down en route to a location), political turmoil (e.g., riot) or criminal/terrorist action (e.g., kidnapping). Travelers should prepare to self-sustain for 96 hours in case of isolation. PR Plan format <http://www.africom.mil/TheaterClearanceCoordCenter/tcccMain.asp>.

7.a. Identify a check-in plan, particularly important if traveling alone. This will allow movement to be retraced or to identify if there is a problem early instead of a question raised some days after you were supposed to have returned.

7.b. Identify how you will behave and communicate in certain circumstances, e.g., rally points (Embassy, Hotel, 2dary Embassy or Hotel), communication alternatives and to whom (phone, SMS, email, twitter)

7.c. If you are traveling between locations, ensure basic supplies present if vehicle broke down (e.g., water, food, comms -even if only a mirror)

8. Identify if there are certain mitigations that should be mandated – examples could be:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Meet/pickup at airport | <input type="checkbox"/> Local RSO briefing required on arrival | <input type="checkbox"/> Use Blue Passport |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Civilian clothing only | <input type="checkbox"/> Cell/Sat phone reqd | <input type="checkbox"/> Vary routes daily |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day travel only | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial luggage use | <input type="checkbox"/> Curfew applies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Embassy approved hotel | <input type="checkbox"/> No / limit alcohol use | <input type="checkbox"/> No travel outside the city |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No taxi or bus use | <input type="checkbox"/> Commo plan required | <input type="checkbox"/> Lease Car with driver |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-malarial reqd |

Those are some of the most essential elements of what you need - then adapt IAW unit/ leader/ component guidance. Each traveler should take a copy and leave a copy with the unit. Do not send to AFRICOM Theater Clearance.

FINALLY - Make sure the country approver comments in the APACS are read in entirety once received and follow any instructions/warnings. The country approver sometimes requires Embassy check-in. If needed, add Country approver instructions to your FP Plan.

Intl access from US is 011/from Europe is 00 ("+" on cell phone automatically inserts appropriate int'l access code.)

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