



## **Maryland National Guard MSCA Force Protection Threat Analysis Cell Advisory**

### **ELICITATION AND QUESTIONING OF SOLDIERS & THEIR FAMILIES**

(U) While no recent elicitations involving military family members have occurred in Maryland, there have been elicitations in the past. Some of these elicitations were trying to discover information about the activity of military personnel and units from Maryland stationed overseas. This advisory is a guide military family members and family support personnel can use to address this issue.

(U) There have recently been several instances of suspicious persons visiting the off-post homes of Fort Lewis, Washington soldiers. These individuals claim to be conducting a marketing survey, and ask to speak to both the soldier and his/her spouse. The questions asked are an attempt to obtain / elicit information, which may pose a threat to the service members and their families. These questions include such things as:

- Where do the family's children attend school?
- Where does the spouse (non-military member) work, and when does he or she go to work and come home.
- When does the military member go to the field and how long do the field problems last?

(U) In addition to the intelligence threat posed by foreign Intelligence Services (FIS), terrorist elements, their supporters, other extremists are gathering information that runs the gamut from economic and technological information to the more traditional classified, military, or security information. Furthermore, organized criminal elements may attempt to learn when military families will be away from home (or when the military member will be deployed) in order to target the family for theft, burglary or other crimes.

(U) Elicitation exploits fundamental aspects of human nature. Most of us want to be polite and helpful, so we answer questions even from relative strangers. We want to appear well informed, so we may be tempted to say more than we should. We want to be appreciated and feel that we are doing something important and useful. As a result, we often talk more expansively in response to praise about the value or importance of our work. As open and honest people, we are often reluctant to withhold information, lie, or be suspicious of others' motives.

(U) Be aware to whom you are speaking and to whom your conversation may be reported. Before allowing any solicitor or survey taker into your home, ask for and record that person's ID information.

If you should ever feel you are being drawn into a conversation that is making you uncomfortable, keep these points in mind:

(1) You are not obligated to tell anyone any information they are not authorized to hear - that includes personal information about you, your unit, and your installation.

(2) You can simply ignore any question you think is improper and change the topic by: deflecting their question with one of your own, giving a nondescript answer, or simply tell the person you are not willing to answer that type of question.

(U) If you are approached by anyone who asks questions that make you feel suspicious of their purpose or intent, file a Serious Incident Report (SIR) with your chain of command.

**Source: Fort Lewis Force Protection Fusion Cell**

**Contact the FPTAC:**

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