During Your Stay

Beware that your conversations may not be private or secure. Unlike the United States, most other countries do not have legal restrictions against technical surveillance. Most foreign security services have various means of screening incoming visitors to identify persons of potential intelligence interest. They also have well-established contacts with hotels and common hosts that can assist in various forms of monitoring you. Electronic eavesdropping has been reported on airlines, in hotel rooms, taxis, and meeting rooms.

Do not use non-company computers to log into your company’s network. Always consider any information conveyed through a non-company computer to be compromised, even if encrypted.

Cyber criminals from numerous countries buy and sell stolen financial information including credit card data and login credentials (user names and passwords).

Do not allow foreign electronic storage devices to be connected to your computer or phone. They may contain malware or automatically copy your stored electronic data. Do not use thumb drives given to you—they may be compromised.

In most countries, you have no expectation of privacy in Internet cafes, hotels, airplanes, offices, or public spaces. All information you send electronically can be intercepted, especially wireless communications. If information might be valuable to another government, company or group, you should assume that it will be intercepted and retained. Security services and criminals can track your movements using your mobile phone and can turn on the microphone in your device even when you think it is turned off.

During the Beijing Olympics, hotels were required to install software so law enforcement could monitor the Internet activity of hotel guests.

Beware of “phishing.” Foreign security services and criminals are adept at pretending to be someone you trust in order to obtain personal or sensitive information.

Upon Your Return

Review your system access with your company’s Information Security Officer. Access that is not accounted for should be investigated.

It is not uncommon for foreigners to contact you after your return. The FBI may be able to help you determine if these contacts pose any risk to you or your company.

Additional travel security tips and country threat assessments are available from the FBI upon request.

Your local FBI office #: ____________________________

www.fbi.gov

SAFETY AND SECURITY for the Business Professional Traveling Abroad

You or your firm may be a target of a foreign country’s efforts to obtain information or technologies in order to increase their market share, build their economies, or modernize their militaries. Targeting methods include luggage searches, extensive questioning, and unnecessary inspection and downloading of information from laptop computers.

Business travelers should take measures to ensure not only the safety and security of themselves but also their business information while traveling outside the United States.

Good security habits will help protect you and your company.

“..." – ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS ON FOREIGN ECONOMIC COLLECTION AND INDUSTRIAL ESPIONAGE, 2003.
Corporate espionage is an increasingly serious threat for a business traveler. The perpetrator may be a competitor, opportunistic, or foreign intelligence officer. In many countries, domestic corporations collect competitive intelligence with the help and support of their government. To mitigate this risk, your organization’s critical information and technologies should not reside on any hard copy or electronic device you take unless it is absolutely necessary, and if so, then you must safeguard the physical access to the information by using encryption and keeping the material on your person at all times. Hotel safes are not adequate protection.

Before You Go

Familiarize yourself with local laws and customs in the areas you plan to travel. You are expected to obey their laws, which may include dress standards, photography restrictions, telecommunication restrictions, curfews, etc.

Plan your wardrobe so that it does not offend the locals, nor draw unwanted attention to yourself. Americans are perceived as wealthy and are targeted for pick pockets and other crimes. Do not wear expensive-looking jewelry and avoid wearing American team sports shirts or baseball caps that might indicate you are an American.

Make copies of your passport, airplane ticket, driver’s license, and credit cards that you take with you. Keep one copy at home; carry a second copy with you. Do not invite strangers into your room. Do do without the device, Do Not Take It!

Establish points of contact for your family to contact and for your foreign hosts to contact in the event of an emergency. Register your trip with the State Department. Obtain the phone number and address of an emergency. Register your trip with the State Department and for your foreign hosts to contact in the event of an emergency. Register your trip with the State Department and for your foreign hosts to contact in the event of an emergency.

Take any necessary medications with you in their original containers and keep them in your carry-on luggage (not checked baggage) during the flight. Verify you have adequate medical insurance.

Sanitize your laptop, telephone, & PDA prior to travel and ensure no sensitive contact, research, or personal data is on them. Back-up all information you take and leave that at home. If feasible, use a “clean” laptop, phone and a new email account while traveling. If you can do without the device, Do Not Take It!

Use up-to-date protections for antivirus, spyware, security patches, and firewalls. Clean out your voice mail. When you access your messages, the pass code may become compromised and others may then retrieve your messages.

Cell phones can be hacked to steal contact lists, usernames, passwords, and browser history.

Familiarize yourself with local laws and customs in the areas you plan to travel. You are expected to obey their laws, which may include dress standards, photography restrictions, telecommunication restrictions, curfews, etc.

Avoid traveling alone, especially after dark. Be conscious of your surroundings and avoid areas you believe may put your personal safety at risk. Be wary of street vendors and innocent-looking youngsters. While one person has your attention, another might be picking your pocket.

Sanitize your laptop, telephone, & PDA, prior to travel and ensure no sensitive contact, research, or personal data is on them. Back-up all information you take and leave that at home. If feasible, use a “clean” laptop, phone and a new email account while traveling. Or if you can do without the device, Do Not Take It!

Critical business information may include:

- Customer data
- Employee data
- Vendor information
- Pricing strategies
- Proprietary formulas and processes
- Technical components and plans
- Corporate strategies
- Corporate financial data
- Phone directories
- Computer access protocols
- Computer network design
- Acquisition strategies
- Marketing strategies
- Investment data
- Negotiation strategies
- Passwords (computer, phone, accounts)

Before You Go

Beware of new acquaintances who probe for information about you or who attempt to get you involved in what could become a compromising situation.

Avoid civil disturbances and obey local laws. If you come upon a demonstration or rally, be careful; in the confusion you could be arrested or detained even though you are a bystander. Be mindful that in many countries, it is prohibited to speak derogatorily of the government and its leaders. It may be illegal to take photographs of train stations, government buildings, religious symbols, and military installations.

Avoid any actions that are illegal, improper or indiscreet. Avoid offers of sexual companionship; it may lead to a room raid, photography, and blackmail. Do not attempt to keep up with your hosts in social drinking. Do not engage in black market activities. Do not sell your possessions. Do not bring in or purchase illegal drugs or pornography. Do not seek out political or religious dissidents. Do not accept packages or letters for delivery to another location.

Keep a low profile and shun publicity. Do not discuss personal or business information with local news media and be careful what type of information you share with foreigners. They may have been directed to obtain information in order to exploit you or your company. Politely redirect the topic. The FBI can provide tips on how to recognize deceitful elicitations.

Evade criminals and terrorists by being aware of your surroundings and alert to the possibility of surveillance. Take mental notes of anyone following you and promptly report it to the appropriate security officials and/or the US Embassy or Consulate. In general, criminals will strike when their target seems most lax about his/her security. If anyone grabs you, make a scene—yell, kick and try to get away! If you are kidnapped, remain alert and establish a program of mental and physical activity for yourself; try to remain calm and non-threatening.

Do not gossip about character flaws, financial problems, emotional relationships, or other difficulties of your fellow Americans or yourself. This information is eagerly sought by those who want to exploit you or your fellow travelers.

State Department’s travel website: www.state.gov/travel

Center for Disease Control for Travelers’ Health: www.cdc.gov