A PRIMER TO COMBATING TERRORISM: 
PLAYING IT SAFE WHILE ON OVERSEAS ASSIGNMENT 
(AN EXPERIENTIAL EXERCISE) 

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ABSTRACT 

Companies now face a much tougher time to persuade U.S. 
managers to accept specific international assignments, and 
many, if not most, of these “jitters” derive from concerns about 
safety. While employers have attempted to attract expatriate 
attention to overseas opportunities through a variety of means 
(i.e., extra pay, pre-departure security briefings, etc.), such 
efforts alone may not yet be sufficient. A clear understanding of 
the reasons for terrorist actions (the general goals of all 
terrorist groups that underlie the actions that they take), and the 
distinguishable stages of all terrorist acts provide a good deal of 
the critical detail that can be utilized by those taking 
preparatory action (developing a plan) to protect oneself/one’s 
employees and one’s family on an overseas assignment. The 
purpose of this experiential exercise is to help those unfamiliar 
with security issues during overseas travel to identify the 
vulnerabilities that could be exploited by terrorists, and then to 
develop a plan to diminish those vulnerabilities. Quizzes and 
expert answers are utilized as part of the exercise to bolster 
participants' depth of analysis and understanding.