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University Office of Security Preparedness Bulletin

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Featured Article

Homeland Security – A Global Perspective

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The terrorism attack on the World Trade Center in New York in 2001 made terrorism a household word in the United States. For most Americans, life within the borders of the United States has been devoid of terrorism. In recent years leading up to 9/11, there has been heightened concern for American's traveling abroad; however, there was still very little emphasis on the possibility of terrorist attacks within the borders of the United States. As a result of the relatively safe lifestyle, Americans have grown accustomed to relying on public safety agencies and public health agencies gearing up to address threats and incidents involving large numbers of people. These agencies have been identified to address emergencies and disorder in our cities and states. They have done an excellent job in dealing with emergencies both natural and manmade. However, these agencies must now deal with the intentional acts of terrorist aimed at wreaking havoc on our economy, causing mass casualties, destroying our infrastructure, and disrupting our daily way of life.

Terrorism is not a new phenomenon. It has been around for years in many countries of the world. In some instances, terrorist have caused governments to respond to their wishes as a result of threats or attacks. In other instances terrorists have coerced governments to allow terrorist groups safe havens in order to ward off the possibility of terrorist acts.

Unlike countries that have dealt with terrorism for a number of years, America has not integrated the terrorism factor into the design, construction, and layout of buildings and other parts of the infrastructure that keeps our economy vibrant and our nation's population safe. America is presently undergoing a remake of itself in order to posture for the possibility of terrorist attacks. Businesses in the United States are taking actions that have heretofore been distant considerations. Businesses, public institutions, government, and private individuals are now focusing attention on preparation and planning leading to survival of our way of life.

You might ask why individual planning as opposed to reliance on our tried and true public safety systems is so important. The answer is quite obvious. If terrorist intend to create havoc and use carnage as a method of terrorizing the people of America into submission to their will, the sheer volume of people requiring services from public safety agencies will be overwhelming. Police departments, fire departments, hospitals, emergency management agencies, public health departments, and other similar agencies will be swamped. It must be considered that terrorist attacks may occur over a long period of time, stripping our resources and exhausting the personnel who provide services. It is very important for individuals, family groups, and organizations to look carefully at preparation and planning for their survival. If individuals and small organizations take steps to protect and care for themselves, it will reduce the numbers of people seeking services from public safety and health agencies. It may also reduce the severity of injuries and mental anguish.

The University Office of Security Preparedness (UOSP) has a website, www.uosp.uga.edu, that provides volumes of information concerning

preparation and planning that individuals should consider in order to survive terrorist attacks. The UOSP website operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to provide information to the University community and to the general public to assist in planning to survive terrorist attacks. The supplies, food, and other items needed to survive short periods of time are part of the information contained on the website. The website also links to other websites such as FEMA, the American Red Cross, and others that provide information to persons attempting to prepare for terrorist attacks. The 24 hours a day, 7 days a week convenience of this site provides ample opportunity for individuals to gain pertinent knowledge concerning emergency preparation for terrorist attacks. It is YOUR responsibility to take actions in your own best interest to care for yourself and your family should a terrorist attack occur. As citizens of the United States, we can no longer afford to leave planning for survival of terrorist attacks in the hands of public agencies that could be overwhelmed if an attack occurs.

To understand how terrorist operate, consider your community and the opportunities for a terrorist to wreak havoc on community resources and facilities. The number of public places available in your community such as shopping malls, educational institutions, stadiums and coliseums for athletic events, race tracks, theaters, restaurants, and other such facilities provide great targets of opportunity for a terrorist intent on disrupting the American way of life. Take the time to make preparations now for terrorist events that could happen in the future. Even though a terrorist attack is not certain, it is certain that if we individually fail to plan and prepare for survival of an attack, there will be great human loss along with physical loss of structures and facilities should an attack occur.

Bulletins are available bimonthly. The issues assist in disseminating current security preparedness information from this office and other University units. Sign up to receive issues of *Readiness Rules* by e-mail. Click on “bulletin by e-mail” located on the [home / contact us](#) bar on the UOSP website.

GRAB AND GO!

Refer to the September 2004 *Readiness Rules* bulletin for information on assembling an emergency kit.



University Office of Security Preparedness
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