

## FORCE PROTECTION FUNDAMENTALS

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All [Airmen](#) should know the fundamental aspects of force protection (FP) to safeguard their own lives, those of fellow Airmen and joint Service members, and valuable Department of Defense resources. Key to the Air Force view of FP is the protection of its people, the prime asset of the Service. Further, every Airman is expected to contribute to FP as both a sensor and as a warrior, prepared to protect and defend operations and assets.<sup>3</sup>

**Effective FP is more than just a law enforcement function.** Prior to the 1996 bombing of Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia, the closest term to “force protection” used with any frequency was “antiterrorism” (AT), which was often viewed as a law enforcement-only function with some focus on individual protective measures.<sup>4</sup> Some have even confused FP as being synonymous with antiterrorism, hence the erroneous term “AT/FP.” FP is much broader in scope, serving as the overarching ends integrating all programs and efforts relating to defense against hostile actors. FP includes [force health protection](#), which supports FP and includes all measures to provide for the health and safety of Service members. Security Forces, augmentees, and owner/user personnel (e.g., personnel working in maintenance and operations on and around a flightline) provide FP. Personnel involved in information fusion operations provide a threat picture by integrating all-source information. This shapes decision-making through intelligence preparation of the operational environment. Civil engineers design physical security improvements; provide planning, training, and response capabilities to deal with force protection-related incidents; and provide explosive ordnance disposal capabilities. Medical and emergency management personnel conduct presumptive identification for the presence of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear agents. Communications specialists integrate evacuation notification systems.<sup>5</sup> [Operations](#)

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<sup>3</sup> While this publication refers to all Airmen as “warriors”, military Airmen and Air Force civilian employees have distinct duties and obligations under the law of war. Further, Air Force chaplains and Air Force medical personnel must also act in a manner consistent with their noncombatant status. While integrated defense relies on the ability of all Airmen to contribute to the defense of their installation, each individual must do so in a manner consistent with any applicable limitations required by Department of Defense (DOD) policy, US law, and the law of war.

<sup>4</sup> DOD Directive 2000.12, *DOD Antiterrorism Program*.

<sup>5</sup> Annex 4-0, [Combat Support](#).

[security](#) (OPSEC) is also a key component of FP. These are only examples of the breadth of FP in the Air Force.

**Every Airman is a sensor, and protecting the force is everyone's duty.**<sup>6</sup> All Airmen are responsible for FP at all times. This responsibility can stress available personnel and resources. In the end, commanders should balance mission accomplishment with FP and embrace the "every Airman is a warrior" culture, enlisting the whole force in protecting or defending an air base. All military Airmen should be trained and equipped to protect and defend the base against threats, and commanders should be identified to lead them in the effort. This includes basic ground combat skills training (e.g., weapons familiarization, self-aid/buddy care), and other relevant training required to prepare Airmen to better protect themselves and the base. Additionally, all Airmen should be trained to recognize and report [chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear](#) (CBRN) hazards, which can be difficult to detect and may not always be preceded by a recognizable hostile incident.

**FP is multi-dimensional, providing multi-layered protection of forces and resources.** It covers actions at home station, in transit, and at deployed locations. It includes not only protecting military members and civilian employees, but also their families, contract employees, and visitors while on an installation.<sup>7</sup> This functional expertise includes intelligence collection; awareness and reporting by all Airmen, on and off duty; detection of and protection from CBRN threats; physical security enhancements; armed defense; law enforcement liaison; and numerous other areas of expertise.<sup>8</sup> This multi-layered protection extends awareness and influence as far forward as possible, while simultaneously providing in-depth protection to Department of Defense personnel and resources. This maximizes the ability to disrupt attacks and provide the earliest warning possible, while ensuring the best protection for the Service's most valuable assets, its people, through close-in security. The end result is Air Force forces able to conduct their missions with the best protection available, based on risk management, wherever the mission is.

**FP requires a global orientation** because of the joint force's worldwide presence and the Air Force's ability to move quickly across great distances in the pursuit of theater and national objectives. Deploying personnel and those traveling for other reasons should focus on their changing environments. For example, they should be aware of the assessed threat at their home station and at each location they will transit, examine the vulnerabilities associated with their travel, and develop a personal protection plan.

Effective [intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance](#) (ISR); counterintelligence; and liaison efforts are critical to identifying, analyzing, and disseminating threat information to commanders and ensuring FP. Threats may include conventional military units, [special forces](#), foreign intelligence agents and services, terrorist groups, aggressive civil

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<sup>6</sup> Quotation by James G. Roche, Secretary of the Air Force, 2001-05.

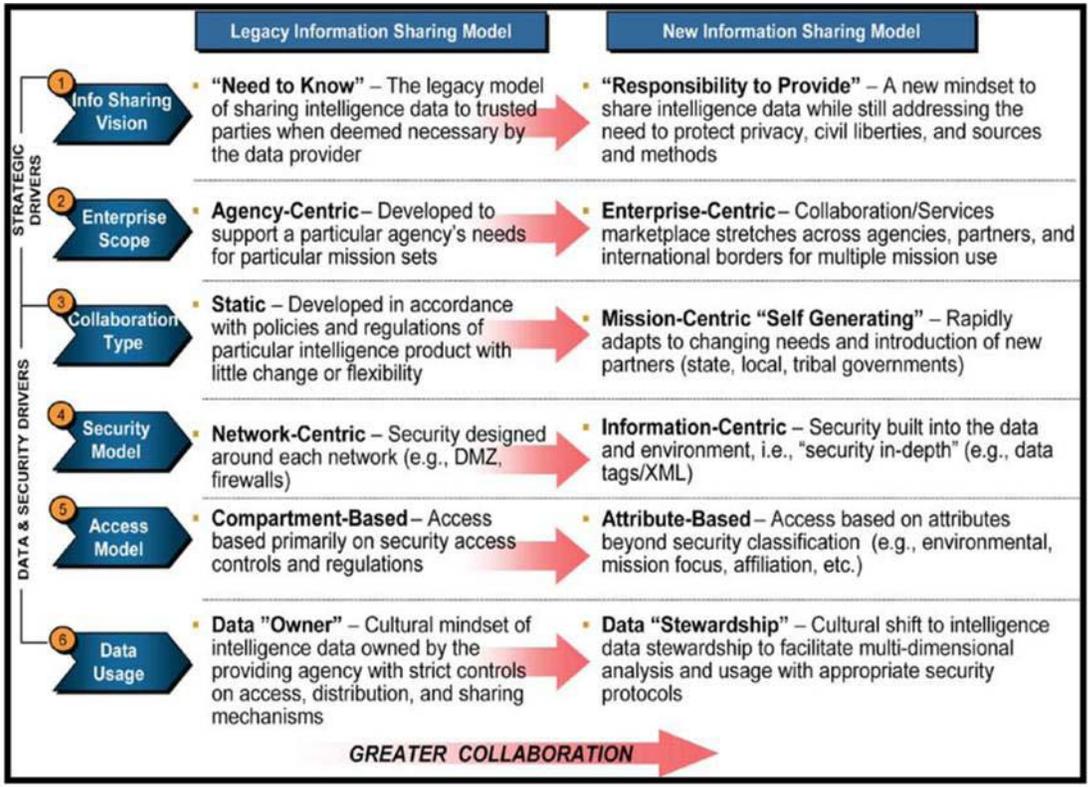
<sup>7</sup> DOD Instruction 2000.12, [DOD Antiterrorism Program](#), establishes the responsibilities of geographic combatant commanders for force protection.

<sup>8</sup> See Annex 3-40, [Counter Weapons of Mass Destruction \(WMD\) Operations](#).

populations, criminal elements, extremist groups, or insider threats operating in, through, and across multiple domains. The enemy may use weapons such as improvised explosive devices (IEDs) or vehicle borne IEDs, mortars, rockets, man-portable air defense systems, computer viruses, CBRN material and agents, explosive ordnance, and small arms. Tactics may include conventional as well as asymmetrical methods. In concert with OPSEC requirements, commanders should develop critical information requirements to guide force protection intelligence (FPI) work supporting their decision-making and operations. FPI is analyzed, all-source intelligence information that, when integrated or fused with other FP information, provides an assessment of the threats to DOD missions, people, or resources. FPI is proactive and drives FP decisions in support of commander's intent. Personnel at all levels should coordinate with cross-functional counterparts (e.g., intelligence, Air Force Office of Special Investigations [AFOSI], security forces, installation emergency managers, medical health community, weather, etc., as well as the counterparts to these entities in other Services in theater and local or host nation forces) to share information and ensure FPI requirements are satisfied in accordance with DOD and Air Force guidance. Constant liaison with local counterparts and host nation forces also enhances cooperation and willingness to share information, especially in crisis situations.

The figure, *United States Intelligence Community Information Sharing Strategy*, portrays an information sharing strategy used in the ISR community, illustrating the importance of this cooperation necessary for intelligence to support FP. **FP practitioners use new technology to enhance capabilities.** Technology offers force protectors advantages in speed, range, and effectiveness to assist them in meeting the demands of a changing operational environment. For example, use of motion sensors, thermal imaging cameras, and night vision devices can enhance tactical situational awareness for base defense. However, none of these technologies can perform FP alone. As technology evolves, so do the tactics of adversaries, necessitating changes in the response to threats. FP requires continued vigilance by the members of the force being protected, with technology acting to enhance their capabilities, not to replace them.

**FP is both an individual and a command responsibility.** Individuals should know the assessed threat against them and the vulnerabilities at their current location, along their route of travel, and at their destination. They should also know and implement individual protective measures. In addition, individuals should immediately report suspicious activities or occurrences to the nearest security forces, AFOSI or joint equivalent, or local law enforcement officer. Immediate reporting increases the chance that information collected is analyzed and turned into intelligence to support the commander.



**United States Intelligence Community Information Sharing Strategy**