



DOD TERRORISM THREAT LEVELS

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The Department of Defense (DOD) uses a standardized set of terms to describe the terrorism threat level in each country: low, moderate, significant, and high. The Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) sets the [terrorism threat level](#) for each country based on analysis of all available information. The levels are defined by the DIA as follows:

LOW: No terrorist group is detected or the group activity is non-threatening.

MODERATE: Terrorists are present, but there are no indications of anti-US activity. The operating environment favors the [host nation](#) and the US.

SIGNIFICANT: Anti-US terrorists are present and attack personnel as their preferred method of operation or a group uses large casualty-producing attacks as its preferred method, but has limited operational activity. The operating environment is neutral.

HIGH: Anti-US terrorists are operationally active and use large casualty-producing attacks as their preferred method of operation. There is a substantial DOD presence and the operating environment favors the terrorist.

Commanders at all levels should use the DIA terrorism threat level plus their own localized [force protection intelligence](#) threat analyses as a basis for developing plans and programs to protect Service members, civilian employees, family members, facilities, and equipment within their operational areas. Force protection conditions (FPCONs)¹⁹ are specific security measures promulgated by the commander after considering a variety of factors including the threat level, current events that might increase the risk, observed suspicious activities, etc.

There is a graduated series of FPCONs ranging from FPCON Normal to FPCON Delta. There is a process by which commanders at all levels can raise or lower the FPCONs based on local conditions, specific threat information, or guidance from higher headquarters. The FPCONs are:

¹⁹ See DOD Instruction 2000.16, Volume 2, *DOD Antiterrorism (AT) Program Implementation: DOD Force Protection Condition (FPCON) System* (controlled access) for a more detailed discussion and listings of FPCONs and their measures.

- ★ **FPCON Normal**—This condition applies when a general global threat of possible terrorist activity exists and warrants a routine security posture. At a minimum, access control will be conducted at all DOD installations and facilities.
 - ★ **FPCON Alpha**—This condition applies when there is a general threat of possible terrorist activity against personnel and facilities, the nature and extent of which are unpredictable, and circumstances do not justify full implementation of FPCON Bravo measures. The measures in this force protection condition must be capable of being maintained indefinitely.
 - ★ **FPCON Bravo**—This condition applies when an increased and more predictable threat of terrorist activity exists. The measures in this FPCON must be capable of being maintained for weeks without causing undue hardship, affecting operational capability, and aggravating relations with local authorities.
 - ★ **FPCON Charlie**—This condition applies when an incident occurs or intelligence is received indicating some form of terrorist action against personnel and facilities is likely. Implementation of measures in this FPCON for more than a short period probably will create hardship and affect the peacetime activities of the unit and its personnel.
 - ★ **FPCON Delta**—This condition applies in the immediate area where a terrorist attack has occurred or when intelligence has been received that terrorist action against a specific location or person is imminent. Normally, this FPCON is declared as a localized condition.
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