

Module 3: Individual Peacekeeping Personnel

Lesson 3.7



Personal Security Awareness



Relevance

- As UN personnel, you are at substantial risk of being targeted
- Your individual security depends on how well you are prepared



Learning Outcomes

Learners will:

- List the five principles of personal security
- List examples of specific threats and explain the personal security measures that respond to each threat
- List actions to take for your personal security



Lesson Overview

1. Your Individual Responsibility
2. The Five Principles of Personal Security
3. Personal Security & Specific Threats
4. What Individual Peacekeeping Personnel Can Do



Learning Activity

3.7.1

Threats to UN Peacekeeping Personnel

Instructions:

- Recall the categories of threats to the UN
- List threats to the personal security of UN personnel in the field

Time: 5 minutes

- Brainstorming: 3 minutes
- Discussion: 2 minutes



1. Your Individual Responsibility

- You are **responsible** and **accountable** for your own safety and security
- You should develop a strong sense of security awareness
- You must adjust your behaviour to take into account the environment in which you find yourself



2. The Five Principles of Personal Security

1. Be aware
2. Avoid routine
3. Maintain your security procedures
4. Maintain good communications
5. Exercise initiative and common sense



3. Personal Security & Specific Threats

- Sexual violence, sexual assault
- Arrest, detention
- Hostage taking
- Crowds, protests and demonstrations
- Landmines, ERW and IEDs
- Weapons firing
- Hijacking



Learning Activity

3.7.2

Personal Security and Specific Threats

Instructions:

- Consider the examples of specific threats
- What precautions would you take?
- How should you respond in each situation?
- Discuss the importance of awareness

Time: 15 minutes

- Group work: 5-7 minutes
- Discussion: 5 minutes



Sexual Violence, Sexual Assault

- Be aware of effects of alcohol
- Never leave drink unattended
- Socialize in large groups
- Be wary of strangers
- Seek immediate assistance if drugged
- Be aware while alone, especially when driving
- Take precautions – meet in public, inform others





Arrest, Detention

- Insist on your rights as UN staff
- Insist on communicating with your office
- Answer questions truthfully
- Do not write or sign anything until seen by a UN rep
- If there are two of you not arrested, one to accompany, other to seek assistance
- Immediately inform the Head of Office





Hostage Taking

- Do not fight back, make sudden moves
- Keep calm, obey orders, a low profile
- Do not speak unless spoken to
- Try not to give up I.D. or clothes
- Observe as much as possible
- During rescue, immediately drop to floor








Crowds, Protests, Demonstrations

- Do not panic
- Leave the area as quickly as possible
- Leave by the safest means possible





Landmines, ERW, IEDs

Landmines	Explosive Remnants of War (ERW)	Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)
<p>Explosives or other materials, normally encased, designed to destroy, damage, wound or kill</p> 	<p>Explosive devices left over from a conflict – grenades, rockets, mortars, artillery shells, bombs, cluster munitions and fuses</p> 	<p>Explosive devices assembled by a user (rather than by a commercial factory)</p> 



Landmines, ERW, IEDs

- Movement stops immediately
- Inform and warn people around you
- Note the area
- Evaluate the situation
- Do not move from your position





Weapons Firing

On foot

- Drop down, hit the ground, crawl to the nearest cover if possible

In a vehicle

- Accelerate, drive through if possible – otherwise exit, hide behind engine block, or crawl to better cover nearby





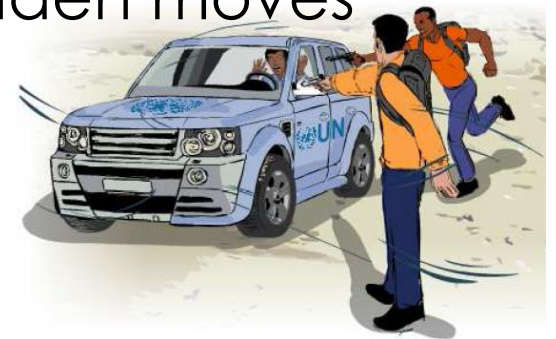
Hijacking

Precautions

- Avoid travel in the evening, certain locations, alone
- Be alert
- Never set a driving pattern
- Keep vehicle in good condition, locked

If you are stopped by hijackers

- Do not resist, provoke, make sudden moves
- Leave ignition running
- Surrender personal items

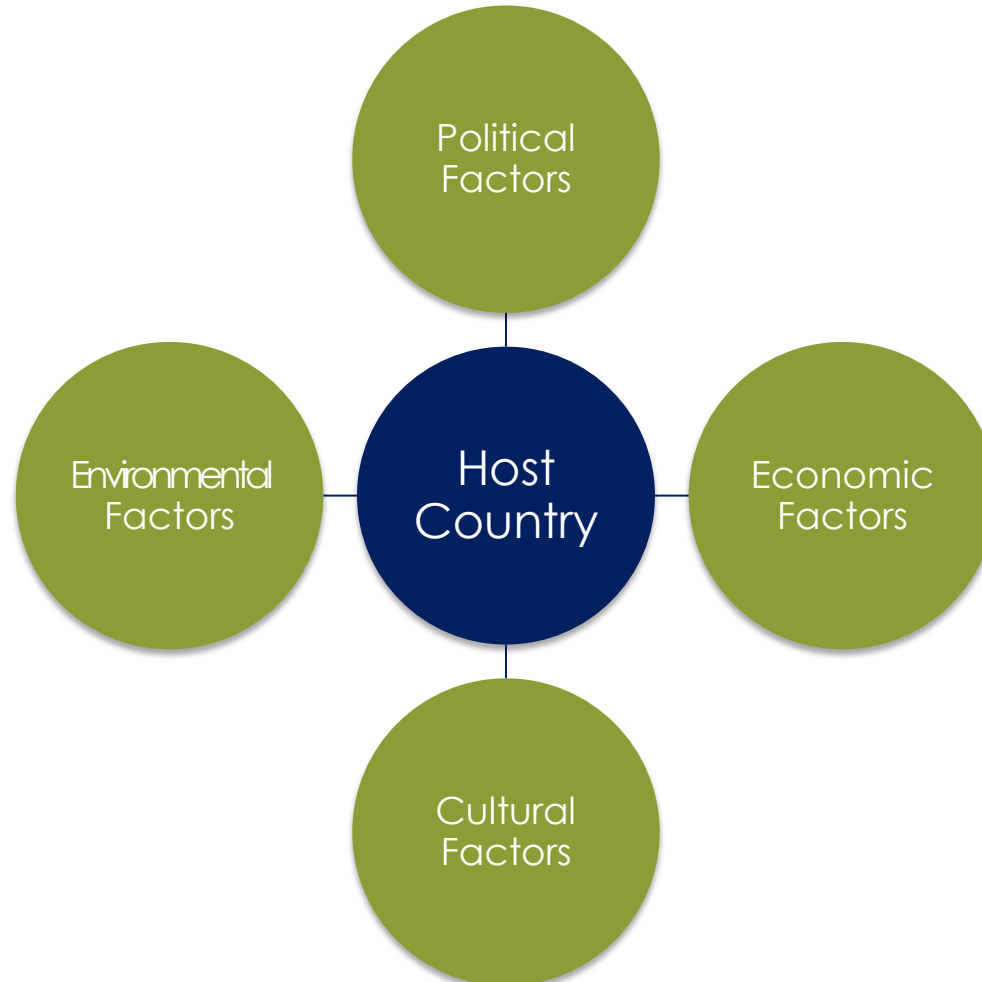




4. What Individual Peacekeeping Personnel Can Do

Can Do

Understand Your Surroundings





Stay Alert

What to Watch For?	Human Observation Reporting Tips	Vehicle Observation Reporting Tips
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Suspicious individuals▪ Suspicious vehicles▪ Suspicious or unattended objects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Ethnicity▪ Height▪ Build▪ Sex▪ Age▪ Weight	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ License plate number▪ Body style/size/colour▪ Make/model/year▪ Any peculiarities▪ Occupants



Take Precautions

- Prevention is the best policy
- The best way to be safe and secure is to avoid trouble in the first place



Be Prepared





Respond to Threats

If you find yourself in a situation of intense agitation, hostility and danger:

- Stay calm
- Do not be provoked
- Take the action that preserves human life, health and dignity – in that order
- **Note:** There are conflicting opinions regarding self-defense and the use of weapons



Respond to Threats

After any serious incident:

- Go to a safe place
- Inform your security officer or Head of Office
- Report the incident quickly and accurately
- Professional counseling can be arranged
- Seek medical assistance
- Call a friend or close colleague



Summary of Key Messages

- Principles of personal security – be aware, avoid routine, maintain security procedures, good communication, use initiative and common sense
- Specific threats – sexual violence, arrest, hostage taking, crowds, explosive hazards, weapons firing, hijacking
- Take action – understand surroundings, stay alert, take precautions, respond to threats



Questions



Learning Activity

Learning Evaluation