



## Security advice for families in Northern Ireland

AFF NI has asked the chain of command to provide regular security briefings for families on their arrival in the Province about the current security situation. Every family should now receive a security brief from G2 who are responsible for intelligence and security matters.

The following information provides some background and will help families in NI understand what steps to take to make their lives as secure as possible.

### The threat

A residual threat remains from Dissident Republican groups towards identifiable military personnel, the Police and MOD establishments. The attack in Antrim earlier this year was carried out against off duty military personnel and a recently detected explosive device on the border was intended for Police patrols. There is no intelligence to suggest that there is a direct threat to dependants, but by taking precautions and being vigilant we can reduce the risk of being involved in a terrorist incident, and can also contribute to the security of our spouses.

### Targeting

This is the means by which terrorists and/or criminals obtain information about soldiers, trying to identify patterns of movement, vehicles and activities on and off duty to then allow them to mount an attack.

Much of the information useful to terrorists is in the public domain - newspapers, Soldier Magazine, and the news; however much more specific information can be obtained from the Internet. The increased popularity social networking sites such as Facebook and Bebo has resulted in soldiers and their dependants posting personal information on the internet, including photographs which identifies their military connection and in some cases their location and activities.

There are ways to enjoy social networking sites but still remain safe.

- First and foremost, never disclose your contact details such as home address and phone numbers anywhere on-line or on your main profile.

- Do not post any photos or information which shows a military connection.
- Privacy settings can be heightened to allow you to customise who can and cannot see your personal details, consider setting these to 'just friends' rather than 'everyone'.

"Identity crime" is a generic term for identity theft, allowing criminals to create a false identity or commit fraud by impersonating people on line. To reduce your vulnerability remember:

- Your identity and personal information are valuable and can compromise your security.
- Personal information should be destroyed and not thrown out with household rubbish. This includes day to day correspondence and anything with your name and address on it.

### What can we do to raise the level of our personal security?

The chain of command can impose security measures for serving soldiers, but we all have a responsibility to carefully consider the safety and security of our own families.

- Avoid a set pattern or routine; vary the route you drive to work, schools etc. and around town.
- Do not wear your security pass off camp, never leave it in the car, and report any loss immediately.
- Avoid revealing your military connections, retain a level of anonymity.
- Do not display military items/clothing off camp.

### Security at home

Security at home is largely common sense using the same basic crime reduction measures you would implement wherever you live - Northern Ireland should be no different.

- Take care of house keys.
- Positively identify visitors before opening the door.
- Beware of any suspect or unexpected objects or parcels that are delivered.

- Keep your garden free from clutter (bikes etc) so you can identify anything unusual.
- Be considerate to your civilian neighbours and keep them on side. Many will have had military neighbours for a number of years and can be watchful on your behalf.
- Talk to your children - you are best placed to help them understand that there are security issues - and without alarming them unnecessarily get them to also be suspicious and vigilant.
- Report any security concerns immediately.

### Security of vehicles

It is a legal requirement to re-register your vehicle with the DVLNI within six months of arrival in NI. Whether you keep your existing registration and number plates or get NI plates is entirely up to you. There are a number of GB plated vehicles in NI so you will not stand out if you decide to keep your GB number.

- Avoid stickers on the vehicle that might attract additional attention.
- Clear the contents of your vehicle keep it locked and if you have one, use your garage.
- As a basic crime reduction measure when out of camp, try to use secure parking, as it is safer than general street parking

### Security when out and traveling around the Province

Be aware of your surroundings and get to know the areas which are safe and those which may be considered "no-go"; remain as conscious of crime prevention as you would on the mainland. There is a Restriction on Movement (ROM) list held at all camps for the safety and security of military personnel - the list is mandatory for soldiers and it is highly recommended that families use it as well.

- A number of taxi firms are recommended for use - ask your soldier or UWO for details.
- When travelling on public transport make sure no one in the family carries anything that has a military theme such as a berghan, day sack or unit t-shirt.
- Check bus routes in advance - some bus services do go through hard-line areas.

- If you have SATNAV in your car, do not program your home address into it. Delete 'recent destinations' on a regular basis.
- When out and about avoid military speak, such as references to the NAAFI, Mess or Leave as these phrases are clearly identifiable as military terms.
- Be aware of any loose talk when in bars and clubs; people can eavesdrop your conversation very easily.
- Ensure military ID cards are hidden away and not used as proof of ID.

### Communication

It is important that families are informed of latest security information and what is going on.

- Your soldier should pass on information to you; in addition you can contact your UWO, AFF NI or the HIVE.
- Make sure you attend any security briefings. They offer help and reassurance.

### Complacency

One of the biggest threats to security is complacency. You have to get on with life and enjoy it, but be alert as well.

- If you see something suspicious on camp phone the unit guardroom.
- If you see something suspicious or you are worried about anything whilst off camp then dial 999. The PSNI will respond. Report anything suspicious to:
  - PSNI - 999 (Only PSNI can respond off Camp)
  - NI Security Guard Service - on the way into camp
  - Follow up by reporting the information to unit security staff when you next return to camp