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# UNIVERSAL THREAT BRIEF

# USMILGROUP

# &

# Force Protection Detachment Ecuador

# OVERVIEW

- Orientation
- Terrorism
- Health
- Crime
- Physical Security
- MILGP Requirements
- Points of Contact

0 80 km
0 80 mi
COLOMBIA
San Lorenzo
Esmeraldas
Galapagos Islands
Islands not shown in true geographical position.
YOU ARE HERE
QUITO
Cotopaxi
Nueva Loja
Manta
Portoviejo
Ambato
Puyo
Riobamba
Pacific Ocean
La Libertad
Guayaquil
Cuenca
Golfo de Guayaquil
Machala
Puerto Bolívar
Loja
PERU
0 40 80 km
0 40 80 mi
Río Marañon

# CURRENT THREAT RATINGS

| | |
|---|---|
| **Political Violence:** | **High** |
| Human Intel Threat: | Classified |
| Technical Intel Threat: | Classified |
| **Crime:** | **Critical** |
| **Indigenous Terrorism:** | **Medium** |
| **Trans-National Terrorism:** | **Medium** |

**Ecuador is a CRITICAL THREAT post for CRIME** – the highest designation by the Department of State.

# TERRORISM

- **Terrorism Threat Level is MODERATE**

- **No information to indicate Americans are targeted.**
- **Pamphlet Bombings have occurred in various locations throughout Ecuador without injuries.**
- **Negative sentiments against U.S/Ecuadorian cooperation**
- **Target of opportunity in the northern border region, therefore greater awareness is imperative**

# TERRORISM

## (Colombian-based)

1. FARC (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia): Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia

2. Other illegally armed Colombian and Narco-Terrorism Groups

# HEALTH

- Threat Level for Infectious Disease is **HIGH**
- Street level prostitution- STD/HIV
- Don’t drink tap water/ice
- Don’t eat from street vendors
- Wear sunscreen and use sunglasses
- Use bug spray with deet in tropical areas
- Be aware that altitude can cause head-aches, shortness of breath, fatigue

# CRIME

- **Criminal Threat Level is CRITICAL**

- **The most common crimes are petty theft and pick pocketing.**
- **Armed robberies can occur at any place or time.**
- **Scopolamine used as an incapacitating drug for robbery and sexual assault**
- **If you are a victim of robbery, do not resist.**

# PHYSICAL SECURITY

- Be conscious of your surroundings and maintain a high level of self-awareness. If possible vary your routine.
- Victims are targets of opportunity. Nonetheless, westerners are generally targeted due to perceived wealth and affluence.
- Limit the amount of personal belongings and cash or credit cards you carry with you. Carry your money in your front pockets. Withdraw money only from ATMs in a secure location.
- Adhere to MILGROUP liberty policy.
- Minimize consumption of alcohol. When out, do not leave your drinks unattended or accept drinks from strangers, as they may be drugged.
- Keep in mind the threat is REAL and it CAN happen to you.
- If you identify a threat, **AVOID IT**, walk away from the place and call for help or police.

# US MILGROUP CC POLICY

- During your stay in Ecuador, you are required to maintain a high standard of personal appearance. Additionally, your goal should be to "maintain a low profile", meaning, try to blend in with the other foreign visitors to Ecuador.

- Pick pocketing and muggings are common, especially in areas that are dimly lit. Exercise caution in parks and open areas.  Watch out for muggers at night.

- Thieves are often armed with guns or knives.  If confronted by an armed assailant, do not argue; give them your money, etc.; do not attempt to overpower them.

# US MILGROUP CC POLICY

- The two-man rule is in effect at all times, regardless of time or location within Ecuador.

- During hours of darkness in Ecuador, no movement by foot is permitted. A vehicle must be used (taxi, POV or rental car). No vehicle traffic is permitted outside the city limits after dark.

- PA is the only agency authorized to make press releases. If questioned by the press refer them to PA.

- Starting July 2010, Ecuador government implemented new rules on alcohol distribution. Monday thru Thursday until 1200 (midnight); Friday and Saturday until 0200 hours; and Sunday (no distribution at all). All DoD personnel will comply with this rule immediately.

# US MILGROUP CC POLICY

- Carry only as much money as you feel necessary for food or shopping; secure the rest in the safe at your hotel. Do not wear expensive jewelry when going to dinner or shopping.

- If deployed to Guayaquil, use extreme caution due to the high level of street crime incidents.

- USMILGP personnel will not enter into political discussions or activities on internal Ecuadorian politics or the Ecuadorian Government. When outside the Embassy in public areas, exercise restraint in your comments which may be overheard, recorded, and replayed with a detrimental effect to the USMILGP mission in Ecuador.

# US MILGROUP CC POLICY

- Curfews are as follows:
  - -- Esmeraldas, Carchi, & Orellana: 0000 – 0600
  - -- Coca & the Malecon: no travel between cities after dark
  - -- Sucumbios: no movement other than for official purpose and meals (hotel <-> restaurant)
  - -- Pichincha, Guayas and other provinces: 0200 - 0600
  - -- Report all contact with law enforcement to your Chain of Command
  - -- Report any vehicle accidents to your Chain of Command

# US MILGROUP CC POLICY

- Ecuador offers a wide variety of extreme off-duty activities, which are available to you at minimal costs. You may not participate in these types of activities without the prior approval of Commander, USMILGP, his/her designated representative, or appropriate service representative sponsoring your TDY to Ecuador. Should you violate this directive and be injured, your injuries will be considered not in the line of duty and you will be liable for UCMJ action as well as all hospital costs.

- On a final note -- remember, you are representing the United States and the Department of Defense and your actions will leave a lasting impression on the Ecuadorian military and Government. I expect you to act in a professional manner that represents your unit, your service, and our nation.

# HOTEL SECURITY

- **Never** give out your key or openly discuss your room number.
- **Do not** tell strangers where you are staying, and make sure you lock your valuables in the hotel safety deposit box.
- **Do not** invite strangers or new friends to your hotel room. For safety, most hotels have a “guest registration” policy that requires guests to provide identification prior to accompanying a registered guest to the room. Additional fees may also apply.
- **Do not** open hotel room doors for unidentified or unexpected visitors, ask for identification first.
- **Do** develop a plan or emergency course of action should a crisis situation develop.
- DOD personnel are required to stay in FP approved hotels unless prior approval has been obtained from the MILGP commander.

# PATRONIZING PROSTITUTES

- **Prostitution is legal in Ecuador only in brothels. "Street-walkers" are illegal.**
- **Patronizing prostitutes can result in prosecution by Courts-Martial.**
- **If arrested locally, you CAN be prosecuted.**
- **<u>Do not support</u> "human trafficking industry"**
- **Reports of prostitutes drugging victims and/or luring victims away to be robbed by accomplices.**

# COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE / CONTACT REPORTING

- Counter-intelligence is certainly a concern, even in Guayaquil. Per 12 FAM 262 US Military personnel and Government employees are required to notify the RSO/FPD when:

1. Illegal or unauthorized access to classified or sensitive information is sought.
2. concern that you may be the target of actual or attempted exploitation by a foreign entity.

- Information gathering activities can include, but certainly are not limited to:

1. Repeated chance encounters.
2. Attempts to obtain bio data or gossip on US employees.
3. Actively seeking a close personal association.
4. Suggestions or encouragement to violate the law.
5. Offers of help in financial situations.
6. Encouraging activity in situations that are suspect or unusual.

# PERSONNEL RECOVERY

- In addition to pre-deployment training:
  - Movement reporting
    - Before departing and after arrival at destination
    - You must check-in between 0800-1000 daily
    - Then 1800-2000 daily if in the Northern Border
    - If your Itinerary changes
- Once in-country, check-in with PRC Director Mr. John Mason for in-brief

# Reporting Instructions SITREP

## Forward a “DAILY” SITREP directly to the following:

Email Address (UNCLASSIFIED): jpatasst@quito.mg.southcom.mil or jpatoic@quito.mg.southcom.mil

Phone: 02-398-5238 (Back-up office numbers 02-398-5422/5361)
After hours/Staff Duty Officer: (24-Hours) 09 982 6902

If E-Mail Communication is unavailable, forward a verbal SITREP to the Staff Duty Office

# STANDING ORDERS

- **Weapons**
  - US Personnel <u>will not</u> carry any weapon or weapon system on any deployment unless:
    - Prior approval has been granted by USMILGP Commander
    - Specific authorization is contained in the deployment order
    - The weapon is integral to the operation or training event
- **ROE**
  - While on training missions, US personnel may resort to force against a hostile presence only in self-defense

# CONTACTS/EMERGENCY NUMBERS

| | |
|---|---|
| SA Chris Delorey, FPD | (c) 09-775-0400 |
| | (w) 02-398-5258 |
| SA Foster Curtiss, FPD | (c) 09-319-8901 |
| | (w) 02-398-5362 |

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|---|---|
| U.S. Embassy Post One | 02-398-5200 |
| U.S. Embassy Roving Patrol | 09-494-5666 |
| USMILGROUP OPS OFFICE | 02-398-5238/5422 |
| USMILGROUP Duty Officer | 09-982-6902 |
| Personal Recovery Center: | 09-793-8527 |
| Police Emergency: | 101 |
| Paramedics: | 911 |
| Hospital Metropolitano | 02-226-1520 |
| International Airport Mariscal Sucre: | 02-244-0080 |
| Mariscal Sucre Tourist Police | 02-254-3983 |