



THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE

Office of Research Security Newsletter

December 11, 2017

WELCOME

Thank you for taking the time to read the ORS Security Newsletter. Our intent is to raise awareness to the common issues that put both the university and its faculty, staff and students at risk. We would also like to provide up to date security relevant stories.

This month's edition focuses on travel outside the U.S. upcoming training and DSS Assessment

Traveling Outside the U.S.

This month's edition focuses on travel outside the U.S. With the holidays approaching we are seeing a lot of individuals traveling this time of the year.

The Department of State urges U.S. citizens living overseas or planning to travel abroad to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). When you enroll in STEP, we can update you with important safety and security announcements. Enrolling will also make it easier for the embassy or consulate to contact you in the event of an emergency. You should remember to keep all of your information in STEP up to date; it is particularly important when you enroll or update your information to include a current phone number and email address.

<https://step.state.gov/step/> - STEP Program

<https://www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/whatcanibring>

Transportation Security Administration (TSA)

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html.html>

- State Department

Foreign travel increases the risk of foreign intelligence targeting. You can be the target of a foreign intelligence or security service at any time and any place; however, the possibility of becoming the target of foreign intelligence activities is greater when you travel overseas. The foreign intelligence services have better access to you, and their actions are not restricted within their own country's borders.

If you're travelling internationally, keep in mind that ORS can set up country-specific counterintelligence briefings prior to your departure, and we also offer sanitized laptops and/or iPads that you can check out for foreign travel. And those UAH employees who hold personnel security clearances are reminded that they are required to notify ORS of their trip prior to departure, and to complete a foreign travel debriefing upon their return to the university.

Bottom Line:

**Be Assertive. Be Alert. Be Aware. Report Suspicious
Activity**

ORS would like to thank
YOU for making the UAH
Security Program a
SUCCESS – Each of you
contribute to the security
program.

We Wish You a Very Happy &
Safe Holiday Season!

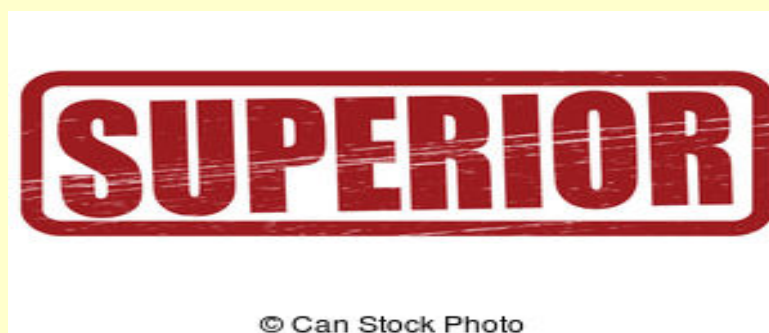


Refresher Security Training - 2018

Upcoming Trainings for 2018

Bob Jones Auditorium, Redstone Arsenal:

- April 5, 2018 - 11:30 am to 1:00 pm, Threat Awareness CI
- May 15, 2018 - 11:30 am to 1:00 pm, Threat Awareness CI
- August 7, 2018 - 11:30 am to 1:00 pm, Threat Awareness CI
- October 3, 2018 - 11:30 am to 1:00 pm, Threat Awareness CI



The ORS undergoes a Vulnerability Assessment every 12-18 months, which is conducted by the Defense Security Service (DSS). This is conducted in accordance with the National Industrial Security Program Operating Manual (NISPOM - DoD 5220.22-M), paragraph 1-206, and Section II of the Department of Defense Security Agreement (DD Form 441) executed between UAH and the U.S. Government, a vulnerability assessment was conducted at UAH on *August 9-10, 2017*.

Overall the facility's security posture was rated as **SUPERIOR**. Which is the **FOURTH CONSECUTIVE SUPERIOR** rating that UAH has received. This rating speaks highly of UAH's support of the National Industrial Security Program (NISP). UAH was rated SUPERIOR because of the security education program, counterintelligence awareness, physical security controls, and involvement within the security community.

Just when you thought you knew the Threats

National Security - Microbes by the ton: Officials see weapons threat as North Korea gains biotech expertise.

The Washington Post's Joby Warrick explains why intelligence officials say North Korea may be moving toward an advanced bioweapons program.

Five months before North Korea's first nuclear test in 2006, U.S. intelligence officials sent a report to Congress warning that secret work also was underway on a biological weapon. The communist regime, which had long ago acquired the pathogens that cause smallpox and anthrax, had assembled teams of scientists but seemed to be lacking in certain technical skills, the report said.

A decade later, the technical hurdles appear to be falling away. North Korea is moving steadily to acquire the essential machinery that could potentially be used for an advanced bioweapons program, from factories that can produce microbes by the ton, to laboratories specializing in genetic modification, according to U.S. and Asian intelligence officials and weapons experts.

The gains have alarmed U.S. analysts, who say North Korea — which has doggedly pursued weapons of mass destruction of every other variety — could quickly surge into industrial-scale production of biological pathogens if it chooses to do so. Such a move could give the regime yet another fearsome weapon with which to threaten neighbors or U.S. troops in a future conflict, officials and analysts say.

Below is the link to full article and videos:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/microbes-by-the-ton-officials-see-weapons-threat-as-north-korea-gains-biotech-expertise/2017/12/10/9b9d5f9e-d5f0-11e7-95bf-df7c19270879_story.html

