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**August 1, 2019**

Soldiers, Civilians, and Family Members,

August marks the Army's tenth annual observance of Antiterrorism Awareness Month. The purpose of Antiterrorism Awareness Month is to instill USARCENT-wide heightened awareness and vigilance to protect critical assets and personnel by preventing acts of terrorism.

The summer season is typically marked by holidays, special events, public gatherings and travel to tourist destinations. However, these same events can also provide soft targets for Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs), Homegrown Violent Extremists (HVES) and other lone actors. This message is intended to increase security awareness for U.S. Army commands, installations, and facilities during all 2019 summer events and activities.

Extremist inspired by Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) ideology remain the primary FTO threat to Army personnel worldwide. Although the physical caliphate has largely been defeated, the threat environment remains UNCHANGED as ISIS messaging still resonates amongst its supporters. The visible shift from spectacular mass-casualty events and symbolic attacks to a focus on more practical small-scale widespread assaults against public targets has increased the possibility that Soldiers and their families may become victims of a terrorist attack. The focus areas planned for this year include:

- Recognizing and reporting suspicious activity
- Understanding the threat associated with violent extremism
- Providing the Army community with violent extremism awareness information
- Educating the Army community on the rules associated with ownership and use of unmanned aerial systems

As one team, we must ensure all USARCENT members remain vigilant and know the indicators and how to report unusual behaviors throughout the USARCENT area of operation. We further encourage all members of the USARCENT family to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the proper authorities.

Finally, I encourage leaders at all levels to share their antiterrorism experience, emphasize the importance of suspicious activity reporting, and improve our antiterrorism plans and programs through lessons learned and best practices.

One of my enduring priorities is "Protect the Force" and this can only be accomplished with the support and involvement of all USARCENT members. Remember, See Something Say Something - others are depending on you! Patton's Own! Third, Always First!

Handwritten signature of Terry Ferrell.

Terry Ferrell  
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army  
Commanding

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