

MINUTEMAN WITH A CELL PHONE

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[Source: www.auxiliarypower.org](http://www.auxiliarypower.org)

In the time of King Alfred the Great (870 – 901 C.E.) the system of "Tything" or "mutual pledge system" required any freeman of the land to raise the "Hue & Cry" if they saw a crime or threat. The Normans knew a good thing when they saw it and so continued it under the "Frankpledge", or "Watch and Ward" system. On 9/11/01 common Americans on peaceful domestic flights raised the "Hue & Cry" armed with nothing more than cell phones.

Their information helped the national command authorities know what was happening. In the case of United Flight 93 they not only raised the alarm but attempted to re-take the plane "that others may live" and gave their lives in the process. The crash site of United Flight 93 in Pennsylvania is to me personally as sacred as any other American Battlefield.

As uniformed members of a Military Auxiliary we are a bit of a paradox. We CAN'T act as law enforcement or security guards. HOWEVER we can PASSIVELY help law enforcement, and our training, especially for GT members, allows passive surveillance and patrolling. See CAPR 60-3 (#1-20, page 7), CAPR 900-3, CAPR 900-5 (#7, page 2), GTM ETL (O-0801,02,03). We are forever at numerous large gatherings such as air-shows, directing traffic and performing passive crowd control. In the face of the current (and I would respectfully submit PERMANENT) security threat, our duties/capacity have not changed, we still provide alerts, warn people of hazards, and provide Emergency Service Assistance. However, we MUST update our awareness of what the hazards are and who and how to alert the proper authorities.

Let's discuss extremists. Notice I didn't say what TYPE of extremist. Yes, right now we are in a surely extremely lengthy battle with Al-Qaeda and their allies & minions. In ten years it may be militant ecologists, anarchists or a racial/religious hate group, it doesn't matter. The true enemy is Nihilism, (look it up) not a specific group that will fade away. All of these groups have 1) a desire to disrupt peaceful law abiding society for their own selfish benefit 2) In a way that will kill, injure and terrorize the populace 3) utilizing the resultant terror to further their aims. They are NOT scared to die and may even DESIRE death as part of their ethos, but all of them fear failure. Let me say that again, all of them fear failure and failure alone.

There isn't enough room in this article to hit on the Kindergarten basic questions of whether or not your First aid/CPR is current or whether you

have a ROA card and your amateur radio license. Surely all the dedicated, trained members of the CAP have fulfilled the American Red Cross recommendations for family disaster supplies and planning. I will politely assume that your local unit is well known and has good relations with local Civil Defense/Emergency Management, law enforcement and National Guard units. I will assume that you as an individual, your family and CAP unit are ready. If you aren't, you know what to do, and it is your duty to do it. We are currently at War.

I want to focus on special events, as they are a lucrative terrorist target and a place where we the CAP can be a huge "Force Multiplier". The CAP has already performed this function at the 2002 Winter Olympics. If you are on a detail for a special event who do you call for EMS or Police Services? Don't just accept the "Call 911" answer. What is the Cell phone number to Deputy Jane's car? Where will the Ambulance be staged? Where is the Command Post? Can they give you a spare radio and a call sign if you have to call for help? What are the evacuation routes? Be politely aggressive. Pair your people up as Ranger Buddies (Older/Younger works well), and make it clear to the event organizers and your people you are there as volunteer professionals.

*Special Event Situation Awareness / Recognizing and Reporting
Suspicious Behavior*

Very, Very Important – We are NOT Sworn Officers/ Security Forces, we can not confront anyone – being extra EYES and EARS is the job, the point is to ALERT PROPER AUTHORITIES QUIETLY AND QUICKLY WITH SPECIFICS about persons, vehicles, or objects/packages of concern.

Looking ONLY for Suspicious Behavior, Actions, or Conditions, NOT ethnic, religious, political or other facts about a person. AGAIN, NO PROFILING ALLOWED BY COMMON CITIZENS – not morally or legally right. DO BE AWARE THAT WOMEN AND MEN BOTH CAN BE SUSPICIOUS

Good Example: A Man is wearing a long overcoat at a hot summer airshow, and he keeps going from trash can to trash can dropping aerosol can type devices in them. One shoulder appears hunched, like he has a heavy load. He also carefully avoids walking by Police or other officials, going by strange routes in the crowd to avoid them

Bad Example: A Man in a turban with a small child carrying a diaper bag at an airshow walks into a hangar that is not open to the public looking for a bathroom to change the child in.

WHAT IS SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR? - Truthfully very hard to define, basically someone who is doing something inconsistent with the general mood at an event: Not looking up at an airshow, not clapping (or protesting) when everyone else is, wearing a heavy coat in August sunshine, etc. Look for multiple signs/actions not just one thing!

PERSON: Who is: stiff, tense, fidgety, keeps hands hidden from view, seems unusually attached/guarded with a bag or burden that seems heavy. Mood is different from everyone else at event. Seems to be "pacing" in an area as if waiting for signal or other person, but avoids security blatantly.

FOCUSED ON FACILITIES: If someone seems to be:

Focused on looking at the location of security cameras

Looking at locations of floodlights/ loudspeakers /

Looking at barriers / traffic patterns / planters or trash cans

"Pacing" step as if measuring width and length of area

Taping comments into micro-recorder

Diagramming facilities on paper (one looks - dictates to partner)

Looking through binoculars at different point from everyone else

Video-Taping wrong things (not friend or aircraft/parade) facilities or personnel

VEHICLE: Heavily loaded (low tires)/ parked in wrong place or in strange manner (angle) / driver drops off and is immediately picked up by another vehicle/ ESPECIALLY "Can't see" panel vans or rental trucks. Wires on outside of vehicle STRONG DIESEL or other odor. Driver keeps trying to "flank" traffic direction. Person and vehicle don't belong together (UPS uniform in an unmarked van?) or in area. NOTE COLOR / # of DOORS / LICENSE PLATES / # of OCCUPANTS / MAKE of car

PACKAGES/UNTENDED BAGS: Be VERY aware of backpacks / bags / boxes left untended or dropped as people scurry away! If you smell the STRONG SCENT OF ALMONDS (even in a tended package) notify officers QUICKLY. Especially be aware of aerosol / Barrel / pressurized containers / spray devices.

SCAN & PAN: Secret Service agents wear sunglasses for a reason! Don't stare at people, it is rude and alarming, instead try and observe crowd/area in ten-yard increments, catching things in peripheral vision. If you see something you want to investigate further, DO NOT STOP on it, scan past and then catch it again on another scan DON'T POINT OR STARE. Try and note GENDER / HEIGHT / HAIR COLOR / CLOTHES TYPE & COLOR and PLACE LAST SEEN

ALERTING OFFICERS: Try and know phone numbers, APOLOGIZE for interruption, BE SPECIFIC – NOT "That guy looks creepy" instead *"That short bald guy in the blue windsuit has a heavy bag that smells of Almonds and he keeps looking at the security cameras and avoiding you when you walk by. He was with two other guys and they all split up, up and down the block I don't want to sound paranoid but I thought that was unusual behavior"* Specifics will get results – LET THEM DO THEIR JOB. YOUR PART IS DONE – if you were wrong, better safe than sorry. Let Officials confront the individuals, period.

These are some general ideas only. They are based on my experience as a Volunteer in Police Service, and some "brain picking" of some friends who are in the Secret Service, law enforcement, or involved with the security for the recent Olympics. If all 1,700 units of the Civil Air Patrol would commit to liaison better with security forces in their area, and all 63,000 CAP members would DAILY keep on the alert, and especially at large gatherings or near strategic facilities, we will yet again validate our E'sprit De Corps through our actions. History proves there will again be dangers to our nation. Let we members of the Civil Air Patrol stand ready with trained eyeballs, cell phones, handy talkies, and above all, a martial spirit, prepared as "Flying Minutemen with a Cell Phone" to raise the "Hue and Cry".