



Surviving **Secondary**

An Identity Threat Assessment of
Secondary Screening Procedures at
International Airports

September 2011

CL BY: 2313665
CL REASON: 1.4(c), (d)
DECL ON: 20360926
DRV FROM: LIA s-06, Multiple Sources





Introduction (U)

Secondary screening—a potentially lengthy and detailed look by airport officials at passengers not passing initial scrutiny—can significantly stress the identities of operational travelers. Border-control officers at international airports use primary screening to quickly evaluate arriving passengers and identify those that may not be admissible, such as illegal immigrants, narcotics traffickers and other criminals, terrorists, or intelligence officers. For countries with authoritarian regimes, airport officials may also want to deny entry to foreign political activists or nongovernmental organization (NGO) officials. Security or customs inspectors can refer travelers to secondary when they find weapons, drugs, or other contraband on their persons or in their baggage. (C//NF)

Referral to secondary screening can occur if irregularities or questions arise during any stage of airport processing—immigration, customs, or security—and regardless of whether the traveler is arriving, in transit, or departing. Officials may also randomly select travelers. The resulting secondary screening can involve in-depth and lengthy questioning, intrusive searches of personal belongings, cross-checks against external databases, and collection of biometrics—all of which focus significant scrutiny on an operational traveler. (S//NF)

This study examines triggers for secondary selection used at various international airports, the range of subsequent scrutiny of identity, and traveler responses that are most likely to pass secondary inspection with cover intact. For the study, CHECKPOINT researched available all-source intelligence reporting but also incorporated a number of secondary screening experiences from operational travelers. The information cut-off date is 31 May 2010. (S//NF)

NOTE: Although the information available is sufficient to provide general insights into the secondary screening criteria and procedures that travelers may experience at foreign airports, **it is insufficiently detailed, comprehensive, and timely to provide tactical intelligence for operational travelers using nonofficial cover.** Moreover, the examples cited in the study illustrate the range of potential experiences but do not evaluate specific airports. (S//NF)

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Pre-Arrival Screening

Although selection for secondary screening frequently occurs while travelers are at the airport answering questions from immigration officers, authorities may also preselect passengers because of some flags in their visa applications or airline records. Many countries issue visas upon arrival, however, nearly 50 countries require US tourist-passport holders to submit visa applications before travel. For holders of US diplomatic or official passports, the number of countries requiring visas before arrival rises to over 120. Security and intelligence services participating in vetting visa applications, either comprehensively or on an ad hoc basis, include those of Georgia, Libya, Pakistan, Russia, Syria, and Uzbekistan. (S//OC/NF)

Available reporting does not detail the criteria with which security services screen visa applications, but confirmed or suspected government or military affiliation almost certainly raises the traveler's profile. Applications can be extensive to assist with the vetting process for immigration authorities and the intelligence and security services. For example, Russia's visa application form requires employer name, address, telephone number, supervisor's full name, and applicant's position for the current and past two places of employment. The application also requires military dates of service, rank, occupation, specialized skills; experience with nuclear, biological, or chemical activities; and all professional, civil, and charitable organizations of which the applicant is or was a member, contributed to, or worked with. (S//OC/NF)

Immigration officials may also receive advance information on arriving passengers from airlines through an advance passenger information system (APIS) or passenger name records (PNRs). APIS information, which enables an advance check against watch lists, includes passenger name, date of birth, sex, passport details, and contact

information. Countries requiring advance passenger information include Australia, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, India, Japan, Mexico, South Korea, South Africa, Spain, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen, the United Kingdom, and the United States. PNR information comes from airline reservation systems and contains personal information such as credit card number, e-mail address, and seating preference. (U)

Security services lacking APIS or PNR information may have other arrangements to receive passenger manifests ahead of time. For example, the Airport Police Intelligence Brigade (BIPA) of the Chilean Investigative Police does not routinely obtain advance passenger manifests but can request the information from airlines on an ad hoc basis to search for targets of interest. Strict privacy laws covering Danish citizens extend to all passengers traveling through Copenhagen airport such that the Danish Police Intelligence Service (PET) cannot legally obtain routine access to flight manifests. However, if one of PET's four cooperative airline contacts is on duty, the service can unofficially request a search on a specific name, according to August 2007 liaison reporting. (S//OC/NF)

Airport Primary Screening

In primary inspections, immigration inspectors examine passports and visas, if visas are required, for validity and authenticity and to verify individuals' identities. They frequently query watch lists or other databases for immigration violations, criminal records, or national security concerns and ask basic questions pertinent to admissibility. The entire process usually lasts no more than a few minutes to enable airports to keep up with the flow of incoming travelers. If there is a watch-list match or inspectors decide that travel documents are suspect or have some reason to doubt a passenger's stated reason for travel, they refer the passenger to secondary screening. Officials at US airports on average



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send about one in 30 foreign tourists and business travelers to secondary although particular airports may impose higher percentages for certain groups. For example, US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents in 2007 imposed secondary screening on 20 percent of Cubans arriving at Miami International Airport. Available reporting does not indicate secondary selection percentages for foreign airports. (U)

With the exception of Israel's Ben Gurion airport and a few others, immigration inspectors conducting primary screenings generally lack the time and tools to conduct in-depth examination of travelers' bona fides. EU norms stipulate that passport checks take no longer than 20 seconds per traveler. Dutch Royal Military Police (KMAR) officers at Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam are under instruction to spend no more than 10 seconds evaluating each passport although few officers achieve this speed, according to July 2009 liaison reporting. (S//OC/NF)

Triggers for Secondary Screening

Referral to secondary screening can occur for concrete reasons, such as a watch-list match or discovery of contraband, because of random selection, or because the inspector suspects that something about the traveler is not right. According to the CBP, inconsistencies or conflicts identified in the interview or documentation, including catching the person in a false statement, unreasonable explanation for travel, or anomalies in ticketing or reservations will prompt a referral to secondary screening. Travelers from specific countries arriving at international airports are more likely to receive heightened scrutiny, and referral to secondary screening, than other travelers. Behavior, dress, and demeanor also factor into an inspector's decision. However, no traveler is immune from the possibility of secondary—many foreign airports have an administrative requirement for a minimum number of random selections. (U)

Watch-list Hit

Border-control officials in many countries use watch lists—national, regional, and international—to screen travelers. For example, the Schengen Information System (SIS), an EU-wide database, contains one million alerts on persons wanted by the police, subject to entry bans, or missing. Most SIS entries deal with other immigration issues such as visa denials or expulsions, and only 2.5 percent are criminal-related. Elsewhere, the watch list focus may be different. For example, the overwhelming majority of names on the Directorate General for Immigration (DGI) watch list at Soekarno-Hatta International Airport in Jakarta, Indonesia, are nationals suspected of corruption or financial crimes. (S//OC/NF)

Good Preparation Is Key (U)

Travelers can minimize the possibility of secondary by knowing how to prepare for and navigate the primary inspection and by avoiding to the extent possible the various triggers for secondary. (S//OC/NF)

Watch lists maintained by security services can also include names of confirmed or suspected intelligence officers, according to reporting from several clandestine sources and the US Embassy in Dushanbe.

- Austria's Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution and Counterterrorism (BVT) and Singapore's Internal Security Department (ISD) list Russian intelligence officers.
- Colombia's Administrative Department of Security (DAS) lists Iranian and Venezuelan intelligence officers.
- Tajikistan's State Committee for National Security (GKNB) lists intelligence officers belonging to unidentified Western countries. (S//OC/NF)

Available reporting does not confirm the presence of names of suspected or confirmed



US intelligence officers on foreign watch lists; however, this probably should be assumed. Hostile and probably even allied services seek to identify US and other foreign intelligence officers. (S//NF)

Discovery of Contraband

Security and customs officials have wide latitude to search passengers and their checked and carry-on baggage for weapons, drugs, and contraband. Although drugs are a common target of customs inspectors, the definition of contraband is country-dependent. For example, travelers at Imam Khomeini Airport in Tehran, Iran, found with videos or photographs of protests or other opposition activity are directed to a secondary questioning room where they undergo full searches of laptop computers and other electronics. Bahrain International Airport security officials refer to secondary screening travelers carrying unusual electronic equipment. (S//OC/NF)

Passport Irregularity

Problems with passports, the main travel document worldwide, are a frequent cause of referral to secondary. Fraudulent passports, possession of multiple passports, and passports containing data in conflict with visas may prompt secondary scrutiny. Most users of fraudulent documents seeking to enter Europe are illegal migrants from poor countries. For example, the majority of counterfeit passports uncovered in Ireland are from Brazil, China, and Romania. Officials also focus on fraudulent use of genuine passports. Falsified travel documents intercepted at Santiago International Airport in Chile are usually genuine Bolivian, Colombian, and Peruvian passports but with counterfeit EU or US visas. Illegal travelers may carry stolen passports and attempt to pass themselves off as the person in the photograph. (S//OC/NF)

The Turkish National Intelligence Organization (TNIO) assesses that possession of multiple passports is indicative of an individual attempting to obscure their real reason for

traveling to Turkey. Possession of three passports—Iranian, Israeli, and Italian—prompted the apprehension in Frankfurt in January 2008 of an Iranian citizen. Inspectors at Baghdad International Airport specifically look for appropriate customs and immigration stamps to ensure travelers are not using multiple passports. (S//OC/NF)

Immigration inspectors may look for evidence of fraud even with e-passports. Media reports indicate that computer researchers have inserted fraudulent digital images into e-passports. Although falsified e-passports will not have the correct digital signature, inspectors may not detect the fraud if the passports are from countries that do not participate in the International Civil Aviation Organization's Public Key Directory (ICAO PKD). Only 15 of over 60 e-passport-issuing countries belong to the PKD program, as of December 2010. (U)

Suspicious Signs

Airport inspectors can also refer to secondary screening individuals who arouse suspicion but for whom there is no substantive cause for denying entry. An airport screening procedures manual published for internal use in 2004 by International Consultants on Targeted Security (ICTS) International, an Israeli-founded company and world leader in profiling techniques, lists suspicious signs in passenger behavior, documentation, tickets, or baggage. Although dated, the ICTS guidelines probably are typical and remain valid. (S//NF)

Behavior

Foreign airports use cameras and undercover officers to identify passengers displaying unusually nervous behavior. Physiological signs of nervousness include shaking or trembling hands, rapid breathing for no apparent reason, cold sweats, pulsating carotid arteries, a flushed face, and avoidance of eye contact.



ICTS Profiling Guidelines (U)

Behavior

- Unusual nervousness or anxiety by passenger or those accompanying the passenger.
- Secret contact with other passengers lacking apparent ties.
- Appearance of lying or withholding information.

Passport

- Lack of familiarity with passport entries (biographic page, previous travel).
- Stamps or visas from a terrorism-sponsoring country.
- Inability to speak the language of the passport-issuing country.

Ticket

- Unusual itinerary.
- Purchase manner unusual to the place of issue.
- Purchase or itinerary change within 24 hours of the scheduled flight.

Baggage

- Baggage or contents inconsistent with the passenger’s appearance, profession, or ticket class.
- Contents inconsistent with passenger’s description of contents.
- Amount of baggage unusual for the ticketed itinerary. (S//OC/NF)

Source: ICTS International NV CSA Tasks, Nov 04, Confidential Proprietary

- At Budapest’s Ferihegy Airport in Hungary, security officers use closed-circuit television (CCTV) and one-way mirrors to monitor passengers for signs of nervousness.
- The Bahrain National Security Agency (BNSA) deploys undercover officers in the arrivals lounge of Bahrain Airport to actively look for travelers who appear to be nervous.
- Officers of the National Security Service (NSS) in Mauritius use video cameras to observe arriving passengers as they exit the aircraft and retrieve their baggage, zooming on individuals’ faces to study their expressions.
- During passenger arrival procedures at Burgas International Airport in Bulgaria, multiple border police officials, including at least one officer behind the passengers at passport control, monitor passengers for

signs of nervousness or other suspicious behavior. (S//OC/NF)

Suspicious behavior includes continuously switching lines or studying security procedures. Officials at Abidjan International Airport in Cote d’Ivoire noticed a male passenger frequently switching lines to avoid processing at a particular booth and referred the traveler to secondary screening. If officials at Narita Airport in Tokyo, Japan, notice someone who appears to be studying the customs inspection process, they assume that someone in that group of passengers must be attempting to smuggle drugs or other contraband and intensify their inspection efforts. (S//OC/NF)

Country of Origin

Immigration and customs officials at various airports associate specific countries with illegal immigration, terrorism, or drugs and are more likely to refer those travelers to secondary screening. (U)



Travel Pattern

A travel history that indicates possible association with narcotrafficking, Islamic extremism, or illegal immigration can prompt a referral to secondary. A review of clandestine reporting reveals examples of what various countries consider to be suspicious. The Chilean Investigative Police (PICH) considers travel originating in East Asia with multiple stops as potentially suspicious. The Gambian National Intelligence Agency (NIA) considers frequent travel to Nigeria and Guinea-Bissau as suspicious. Israel's security personnel focus on frequent travel to Islamic countries. Venezuela's Office of National Identification and Foreign Status (ONIDEX) flags foreign travelers who travel to Venezuela five or more times a month for subsequent

secondary interviews. Zambian immigration officers suspect that a pattern of short-stint trips between Zambia, Pakistan, and South Africa indicates possible drug smuggling. (S//OC/NF)

Ticket and Baggage

Ticket purchase anomalies can result in a referral to secondary. Czech Airlines (CSA), the primary screening authority for passengers departing Ruzyne Airport in Prague focus on reservation details such as cash payment, ticket purchased at the airport or on the travel date or the day before, one-way travel, and lack of checked baggage. For example, CSA preselected a Nigerian national with one-way ticket and no checked baggage in July 2009 for secondary screening,

Area of Concern	Airport	Travelers' Countries of Origin
Illegal Immigration	Portela International Airport, Lisbon, Portugal	Western Africa; portions of Eastern Europe; former Portuguese colonies of Angola, Brazil, Guinea-Bissau, and Mozambique
	Simon Bolivar Airport, Caracas, Venezuela	Cuba
	Soekarno-Hatta International Airport, Jakarta, Indonesia	Afghanistan and Iran
Terrorism	Eleftherios Venizelos Airport, Athens, Greece	Egypt, Iran, and Iraq
	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Sri Lanka
	Saudi Arabia (various)	Iran, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Yemen, and the Palestinian territories
Drug Trafficking	Eleftherios Venizelos Airport, Athens, Greece	Afghanistan, India, the Netherlands, and Pakistan
	Narita Airport, Tokyo, Japan	Amsterdam and Bangkok
	Seychelles Airport, Victoria, Seychelles	Nigeria

This table is SECRET//ORCON/NOFORN.

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according to a Czech Airlines official. The South African Immigration Liaison (SAIL) team at Johannesburg airport examines departing travelers for one-way tickets, same-day ticket purchase, ignorance of final destination, or travel rationales that do not appear to be bona fide, the US Embassy in Pretoria reported. A Dutch Government investigation of the failed 2009 Christmas Day bombing concluded that the suspect should have been sent to secondary screening because of his cash ticket payment, ticket issuance in a third country, and lack of baggage. (S//OC/NF)

April 2007 reporting resulting from a liaison exchange with the Hungarian Special Service for National Security (SSNS) provides insights into factors considered by officers at Ferihegy airport in Budapest, Hungary when examining tickets. Officers check whether the traveler used a business-class ticket for tourist travel, whether the ticket fare code represents a government or military discount, or whether a government travel agency booked the ticket. Hotel and car reservations are similarly examined for unusual discounts or government affiliation. (S//OC/NF)

An unexplained lack of baggage probably would raise suspicions. SSNS officers conducting baggage inspection at Ferihegy airport may also further investigate a passenger if they found:

- An amount of baggage inappropriate for the length of stay
 - Multiple new items, such as alarm clocks or notebooks, in baggage.
 - Carelessly packed baggage when passenger is purportedly an experienced business traveler.
 - Unopened and unmarked maps, guidebooks, or other literature. Maps of unrelated cities in baggage for a purported tourist traveler.
- Camera quality not matching the traveler's profile or camera memory card insufficient for a lengthy tourist trip. (S//OC/NF)

Other Factors

A review of clandestine reports suggests that a passenger's language capability, age, appearance, or background may all factor into a security official's decision to refer the traveler to secondary.

- In an operation to screen for Hizballah members traveling from Venezuela, the Mexican Center for Investigation and National Security (CISEN) planned to take into secondary screening Venezuelan passport holders without a mastery of Spanish.
- To identify operatives or sympathizers of the Kongra Gel (KGK, formerly PKK), Kurdish passengers with a Turkish or Iranian accent arriving at Irbil airport in Iraq are automatically sent to secondary.
- Security personnel at Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv, Israel, commonly refer military-aged males traveling alone with backpacks to secondary screening, regardless of their nationality or skin color.
- Salvadoran security services identified a suspected Venezuelan Government courier on the basis of a military style haircut, physical fitness, casual dress, and little baggage.
- Japanese customs officials pay careful attention to single travelers, especially young Westerners, because they may be drug couriers.
- Chilean Investigative Police (PICH) officers pay close attention to male travelers from China, particularly those between the ages of 16 to 28 because of illegal immigration concerns.
- Egyptian security officials at Cairo airport regularly select visitors of certain ethnic



or work backgrounds for secondary questioning to ascertain the nature of their business. US-Arabs, particularly US-Egyptians, garner a high amount of scrutiny. Other backgrounds attracting increased scrutiny include Christian-Arabs or Jews, human rights or other humanitarian workers, and individuals with advanced scientific degrees. (S//OC/NF)

Random Selection

Even if operational travelers do everything correctly, the possibility remains that airport officials will select them for secondary screening. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) estimates that about 12 percent of US-bound passengers are randomly selected for additional screening at overseas airports. Random selection is a significant component of the security measures employed by the US Transportation Security Administration (TSA). (U)

Airport officials may also randomly select travelers for the purpose of extorting bribes. April 2010 clandestine reporting from a source with secondhand access indicates that the manager of the Mogadishu International Airport in Somalia made a habit of selecting at least one passenger from each flight for secondary inspection, accusing the passenger of illegal activity, and forcing the passenger to pay a bribe for release. Although official passport holders at Chittagong airport in Bangladesh receive expedited processing and minimal scrutiny, tourist-passport holders are frequently subject to secondary questioning lasting an hour until a \$50 bribe is paid. (S//OC/NF)

Secondary Screening

The combination of procedures available in secondary, a stressful experience for any traveler, may pose a significant strain on an operational traveler's ability to maintain cover. Individuals singled out during primary inspection are sent to a secondary holding area. After travelers

undergo a wait, inspectors conduct "soft" or "hard" secondary processing. Soft secondary, which is usually brief, is normally directed at legitimate travelers who require additional processing, such as travelers arriving with immigrant visas. Inspectors most likely conduct additional database checks on the travelers' names, dates and places of birth, and passport numbers and may search the travelers' personal belongings and baggage. Failure to pass soft secondary or suspicion on the part of the inspector that criminality is involved will invoke hard secondary. In extreme cases, hard secondary screening can involve a multi-hour, in-depth interrogation with forensics-level examination of personal electronics, detailed inspection of personal effects, and use of external databases to corroborate traveler stories. (S//OC/NF)

Airport authorities generally use their most experienced inspectors or intelligence personnel to conduct secondary inspections. For example, a small cadre of experienced interviewers from the Police Intelligence Prefecture of the Chilean Investigative Police conducts secondary inspection at Santiago

Secondary Screening in Syria (U)

A Syrian airport officer removed a US businessman from the immigration line at Aleppo International Airport and questioned the businessman in secondary for approximately one hour. The officer explained the need to obtain additional information as standard procedure for all US citizens. Although other officials examined the businessman's passport and mobile telephone, the airport officer questioned the businessman on his Arabic-language proficiency, reason for traveling to Syria, identities of those with whom the businessman planned to meet, the businessman's employment with an emphasis on whether he was an employee or owner, where the US passport was issued, and whether someone was meeting the businessman at the airport. Syrian officials also demanded that the businessman telephone his Syrian point of contact and asked the contact the same questions. (S//OC/NF)

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International Airport. Some officers have specific regional and cultural knowledge, particularly on Peru and Bolivia, which they can bring to bear in verifying interviewees' bona fides. At the Sri Lanka airport, only the Sri Lankan Immigration and Emigration Department's chief immigration officer and the duty officer manager can conduct secondary interviews. Directorate for Border Security and Immigration (Direction des Frontieres et des Etrangers, DEF) officers from the intelligence unit, not regular immigration officers, staff secondary interrogation areas at Tunisian airports. (S//OC/NF)

Inspectors focus on body language during questioning. The Hungarian National Security Office (NSO) officers conducting secondary screening at Budapest's Ferihegy Airport read the body language, behavior, and mannerisms of those being interrogated to conclude if they are lying or withholding information. During interrogations, officers question travelers on their travel reasons and arrangements to see if they appear plausible. They also examine baggage, tickets, and reservations. The Chilean Investigative Police trains its secondary interviewers to look for nonverbal cues during interviews in addition to evaluating general appearance, clothing, and carry-on effects. If travelers at Irbil airport in Iraq are deemed evasive, screeners return them to their city of origin. (S//OC/NF)

Travelers can legally be held in secondary screening for hours, if not longer. Officials can detain travelers in secondary screening at the Tbilisi International Airport in Georgia for up to three hours. Turkey can hold foreigners in secondary screenings for up to 24 hours. Indian authorities in January 2011 held a Chinese national at New Delhi airport for 36 hours, according to media reporting. The Brazilian Federal Police (DPF) can detain travelers at Sao Paulo's Guarulhos International Airport for up to 48 hours. ***Travelers undergoing secondary inspection most likely have no right***

of access to their embassy or to other outside assistance. (S//OC/NF)

Lengthy secondary interrogation provides time for security officials to verify or refute the traveler's story and raises the pressure on passengers attempting to hide illegal behavior. Officers can use the time to consult external sources, collect additional information, and conduct an in-depth search of passengers and their baggage. (S//NF)

Verification of Travelers' Stories

As part of their investigation of travelers, officials can telephone their contacts. At Ambouli airport in Djibouti, the senior immigration officer's secondary investigation of a suspect traveler included telephoning the traveler's sponsor. Officials at the Tripoli airport scrutinized 21 males with a specific given name who entered Libya from Tunisia, making telephone calls to verify their information. (S//OC/NF)

Officials can also access national and international databases and the Internet. Immigration databases at many ports of entry allow border officials to retrieve previous travel to the country as part of their investigation. For example, Brazilian Federal Police (DPF) officers conducting secondary screenings at Guarulhos Airport in Sao Paulo can access travelers' travel histories. Chilean Investigative Police (PICH) inspectors conducting secondary screenings conduct real-time searches of Interpol records by name, date of birth, or passport number. Estonian Border Guard Service (BGS) officers access the Internet to locate hotels, conferences, or companies identified by passengers to confirm or discredit their story. Internet access also allows airport security officials to examine travelers' social and business network accounts to confirm that their Web presence corresponds with their persona. For example, Foursquare and Linked-In are business equivalents to the Facebook social network. Security officials might also expect a sales or marketing



traveler to have a Twitter account. The absence of such business-related Web accounts probably would raise a business traveler's profile with officials. (S//OC/NF)

Collection of Additional Data

Officials can collect additional biographic or travel data to flesh out the traveler's story. In July 2009, airport officials in Shiraz, Iran, used a screening questionnaire in secondary screening to collect detailed information on US-Iranians holding dual nationality. An officer verbally translated the questionnaire for the non-Farsi speaking travelers, transcribing the responses in Farsi onto the questionnaire. Required information included name, date and place of birth, current address, length of time living there, other addresses, places traveled, telephone number, reason for living in the United States, occupation, reason for visiting Iran, field of study (for students), address in Iran, name and telephone number of host, the host's relation to the traveler, and other areas to be visited. Tehran airport security personnel also request that visiting US-Iranians log into their personal e-mail accounts and the officers then review the contacts and types of e-mails in the accounts. (S//NF)

Officials can collect fingerprints or other biometrics, and determine if the passenger has a past record. In secondary inspection at Singapore airport, officials fingerprint and photograph suspect individuals and run queries against the Biometrics Database for Immigration Clearance (BDIC). The database contains 10 fingerprints for previously deported expellees and other criminals. In addition to using fingerprints to identify immigration offenders who attempt to re-enter Singapore using different identities, in early 2009, the BDIC system also incorporated face-recognition capabilities to allow Singapore Immigration and Customs Agency (ICA) officers to match travelers against photographic images of black-listed persons. According to August 2009 clandestine reporting, the Salvadoran Government is

working to obtain fingerprint readers for use in secondary with repatriated deportees and other travelers of interest, primarily those suspected of association with organized crime or Central American gangs. (S//OC/NF)

In-depth Search of Belongings

Customs officials conducting secondary screening at Narita Airport in Tokyo, Japan, may ask individuals to remove all items from their accompanying baggage for closer examination. Secondary screening by immigration officials at Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia includes an examination of pocket litter. (S//OC/NF)

Inspections can include examining belongings for traces of explosives. At Ben Gurion airport in Israel, the secondary screening room contains trace-detection equipment for explosive residue; tools for dismantling passengers' personal items for inspection, particularly items unfamiliar to security officers; and a disrobing area, divided by privacy curtains, to conduct strip searches of individuals, if necessary. (S//NF)

Officials can copy or confiscate a traveler's personal electronics. Ireland's Garda can image or copy electronic devices, including telephones, once individuals are taken into secondary screening. Russian customs agents at Sheremetyevo airport in Moscow confiscated without explanation a laptop computer, thumb drive, and removable hard drive belonging to a Department of Energy official. (S//OC/NF)

Personal Electronics (U)

Smart phones, iPods, and MP3 players, can pose a vulnerability to alias travel because of their requirement for subscriptions. If border-control officials can establish a link between the device and the traveler's true name, this could present a difficulty for someone traveling in alias. (S//OC/NF)



Dealing with Secondary

Consistent, well-rehearsed, and plausible cover is important for avoiding secondary selection and critical for surviving it. A

frequent operational CIA traveler to Asia and Europe advises that the most effective prevention of secondary is to have simple and plausible answers to the two most frequently asked questions, “Why are you here,” and “Where are you staying.” Travelers should also ensure before traveling that everything that officials can use to examine their bona fides—passports, travel history, baggage, personal electronics, pocket litter, hotel reservations, Web presence—is consistent with their covers. (S//OC/NF)

Mental preparation almost certainly helps travelers pass secondary scrutiny. Although a certain degree of nervousness is expected, persistent indications of deceptive behavior will almost certainly extend the secondary interview. According to a financial forensics expert in the commercial sector, deceptive persons:

- Allow a significant pause between a question and the response, or use delaying sounds, like “ah” or “um.”

- Exhibit psychosomatic behavior such as swallowing, lip biting, perspiring, deep breathing, frequent clothing adjustments, or lint picking.
- Qualify sentence meanings with words like “typically,” “normally,” “often,” “maybe,” or “almost” or phrases like “to be honest,” “the truth is,” or “swear to God.”
- Provide overly specific responses. (U)

Travelers who avoid providing unnecessary details probably shorten secondary interviews. May 2009 FBI reporting indicates that a Chinese network security company advises its employees in secondary to avoid appearing nervous, keep answers simple, and not volunteer additional information, such as details on US contacts. (S//NF)

The Importance of Maintaining Cover—No Matter What (S//NF)

Even when the traveler does everything right, the best protection during secondary screening is to be well-prepared with a cover story, according to an experienced CIA traveler. In one incident during transit of a European airport in the early morning, security officials selected a CIA officer for secondary screening. Although the officials gave no reason, overly casual dress inconsistent with being a diplomatic-passport holder may have prompted the referral. When officials swiped the officer’s bag for traces of explosives, it tested positive, despite the officer’s extensive precautions. In response to questioning, the CIA officer gave the cover story that he had been in counterterrorism training in Washington, DC. Although language difficulties led the local security officials to conclude that the traveler was being evasive and had trained in a terrorist camp, the CIA officer consistently maintained his cover story. Eventually, the security officials allowed him to rebook his flight and continue on his way. (S//OC/NF)