Travel and Research Tools and Case Studies

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UC Travel Risk Insurance Program

- The Office of Risk Services expanded the University's travel insurance program to include travel assistance resources, in particular, medical evacuation and security extraction which can deploy emergency response services throughout the world at a moment's notice.

- There are several success stories of UC employees and students having used these resources. These stories highlight the Office of Risk Services' commitment to the safety of several employees and students during the following events:
  - 2008 Mumbai hotel bombing
  - 2008 Flu epidemic outbreak in Mexico
  - 2009 coup in Honduras
  - 2010 civil unrest in Thailand
  - 2010 earthquakes in Haiti and Chile

- In addition, a professor conducting research in New Caledonia was medically evacuated after being seriously injured when he fell down a ravine; a journalism student detained by Egyptian police was extracted from Mahalla during a food riot and demonstration.

- In 2011, 35 UC travelers were successfully transported out of Egypt during the civil unrest of late January.
Core Service Offering

- **Medical Assistance** including referral to a doctor or medical specialist, medical monitoring when you are hospitalized, emergency medical evacuation to an adequate facility, medically necessary repatriation and return of mortal remains.
- **Travel Assistance** including emergency travel arrangements, arrangements for the return of your traveling companion or dependents and vehicle return.
- **Security Assistance** including a crisis hotline and on the ground security assistance to help address safety concerns or to secure immediate assistance while traveling as well as access to a secure, web-based system for tracking global threats and health or location based risk intelligence.
- **Personal Assistance** including pre-trip medical referral information and while you are on a trip: emergency medication, embassy and consular information, lost document assistance, emergency message transmission, emergency cash advance, emergency referral to a lawyer, translator or interpreter access, medical benefits verification and medical claims assistance.

University of California- Travel Risk Management

- Reviews predictive intelligence
- Tracks traveling students, faculty and staff
- Locates and communicates with those affected by intelligence alerts
- Provides online training to travelers prior to trips
- Works with travel and medical assistance provider networks in case of emergency

James Buck- 2008

*My tenure at UC Berkeley as a journalism and Middle Eastern studies graduate student has been defined by one word – arrested.*


That’s the text I fired off to Twitter when my translator and I were detained by Egyptian security forces in April 2008. I was in the city of Mahalla working on my thesis when some of the largest anti-government riots in the last 30 years broke out. I was using Twitter to find breaking stories but it ended up being my rescue tool. In less than a minute my colleagues began working to free us. And that’s when Risk Services got involved. Being detained in a foreign country is often a precarious situation that can take days, weeks or months to sort through - and in Egypt, many have been known to simply disappear. Thanks to Risk Services’s travel insurance program, I was out in just under 24 hours. They contacted a lawyer, who arrived the next day to arrange for my release and also mediated on the behalf of my translator. With his help I walked out a free man.
James Buck- 2008

"Before leaving for Egypt, filing for the Risk Services travel insurance felt like inconvenient paperwork, but it proved invaluable. This is one of the most undervalued programs at the University of California. It allows people associated with the university to conduct research internationally despite high levels of risk. Essentially, it provides a safety net to conduct projects that might otherwise seem out of reach. It’s not just about preventing loss and limiting liability - they actually make it possible for us to literally get out there in the world."

Honduras Coup – June 2009

Grace & Cheryl,

Got a phone call from Rosemary Joyce, a professor associated with a program down in Honduras. She came back from Honduras yesterday but apparently there are still five (5) students down in Honduras. They are suppose to fly out today or tomorrow. They are located in San Pedro (northeastern part of the country) and she gave them good advice on which hotels to stay in, etc. and they are briefed on the hotline number to call. They were well aware of the political tensions surrounding the potential referendum today which did not materialize. She has tried to get in touch with the students in response to the incident earlier today in the capital city when the military forcefully removed the president from office. (I am attaching a copy of our latest alert below for you information.) Water and communication infrastructure has been taken down and will likely remain thread, and we are getting in touch with the students as well as her contact information. If we have the contact information we will try to contact the students as well as Rosemary as well to verify it.

Fortunately, they are all in San Pedro Sula and not in the capital city, which is more likely where any major civil unrest would take place. As this moment the international airport in the capital city, Tegucigalpa, remains open and operations are not affected. As of this moment the international airport in San Pedro Sula are operational and UC students should still be able to fly out today / tomorrow.

I asked Rosemary if she has already reached out to the UC Risk Office. No she has not since she has been working hard to find and get hold of the students. We will work with her plus in the coming hours to help get in touch with the students and if the situation should deteriorate significantly we will make sure we inform you accordingly and if the students are still in the country at that point we can then work through options and alternatives.

Feel free to call / any questions.

Johan G. Selle
Director of Operations

Thailand- 2009

[Image of flooded streets in Thailand]
Thailand- 2009

Egypt – January 2011

- In late January, when Cairo erupted into chaos, the University of California was faced with rounding up many undergraduate students from their host homes, providing safe haven and safe transport out of the country. In addition, the Egyptian military suddenly evicted a University team of archaeologists from a site they had manned for over 30 years.

The Proposed Plan

Ground Transportation— unlike other universities who had students housed at University of Cairo, UC students were housed in host homes. Arrangements had to be made to provide meeting places and/or direct pick-up of individual students. Security also had to be arranged using a local security company. They allocated a security professional to each one of the four primary neighborhoods (Dokki, Ramses, Zamalek and Maadi) to meet up with transportation service to ensure the students would get safely to the staging point.

Charter Air Service—Through the security provider, a B-737 jet was chartered to fly from Cairo to Barcelona, Spain on the afternoon of Feb. 1, 2011. The security provider arranged for transportation from the staging area (a J.W. Marriott) to the airport. Upon arrival in Barcelona, students would be picked up at the airport and taken to a hotel.

Of concern, were the 11 UCLA archaeologists students fondly referred to as "Diggers from the South". They were driving up from their dig and with curfew and limited cell service, there was some question about their ability to make it to Cairo in time for the charter.
The Proposed Plan - Continued

Contacts / Coordination:
The security provider had a local agent in Maadi, Cairo. She moved along with the students to the staging area from where she coordinated the presence of all the students and ensured their safety. She was supported by several U.S. operatives of the security provider from their Operations Center in Annapolis, Maryland. There was continual communication with the students, researchers, the ground transportation and security service providers. In addition, status updates were pushed out to UC Risk Management, the insurance carrier and travel assistance provider every 2 hours.

Maldives Project - 2012

- ITAR Equipment - UAV
- Foreign Nationals Participating
- ITAR Licensing
- Video Taping of activities

What Could Go Wrong?
Security Alert

- **Security Alert 4** - Supporters of former President Nasheed riot in Male, Maldives, alleging coup d'etat. Violence spreading nationwide.
- **Avoid Nonessential Travel**
- This Alert affects Maldives
- This Alert began 08 Feb 2012 20:46 GMT and is scheduled to expire 15 Feb 2012 23:59 GMT.

**Updated Information**

Widespread violence is occurring in Male and multiple atolls of the Maldives following the resignation of former President Mohamed Nasheed of the Maldives Democratic Party (MDP). Riots erupted after Nasheed announced late Feb. 8 that he had been forced at gunpoint to step down and alleged a coup d’etat by now President Mohammed Waheed Hassan and his military and police supporters. Nasheed and approximately 2,000 supporters gathered at Male’s Republic Square began throwing firebombs and clashing with police shortly after the announcement. At least two people died and an unknown number of people sustained injuries during the melee, including Nasheed and several government backers who allege they were beaten by police.

Violence is spreading outside of Male, especially to MDP strongholds in the north and far south. Supporters in several atolls seized control of as many as 10 police stations and burned several government buildings. Unrest is being reported in southern Addu and Thinadhoo and northern Dhidhdhoo and Ihavandhoo.

Reports indicate that thus far violence is not affecting the main tourist resort areas in the Maldives. However, unrest may continue to spread in the coming days and cannot be ruled out anywhere. As such, several foreign governments have issued travel advisories warning of the risk of travel to the Maldives.

**Background and Analysis**

Nasheed and his supporters are calling for Hassan to immediately step down and for the judiciary to investigate the alleged coup d’etat. At this time, it is unclear if Nasheed has the support to force another government overthrow, although the spreading violence indicates that he could make security conditions poor in the nation for the immediate future. Nasheed has faced growing protests over the past year by opposition members and religious groups. Conditions worsened in January after Nasheed’s government arrested a top criminal court judge who freed a government critic after discovering that he had been arrested without a warrant. Despite near-nightly protests, Nasheed’s government refused to release the judge, a move that could make the judiciary less than sympathetic towards the former leader in any coup d’etat investigation.

Hassan has denied all allegations of a coup and has replaced several top political and military figures. The new leader is calling for a unity coalition to ease politician tensions and has already appointed several top government officials and security figures. The military has also denied all allegations that Nasheed was forced from office.

**Advice**

If in an area where violence breaks out, remain in a secure location until the situation stabilizes. If travel is necessary, avoid all protests, government buildings, military installations, police stations, and political party offices. Stay away from Republic Square, which has been the focal point of all demonstrations in Male.

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**UAVs**

- "On the UAVs and other equipment under ITAR Export License, they are still in Customs awaiting clearance and import duty waiver. This process now undoubtedly will be delayed, for how long, no one knows. The waiver was issued from the President Office, but that was then, it is now with new president (he was the vice president but now taking over). We will have to wait if that decree is still valid, or we should seek a new one from the new President."

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**Maldives Project - 2012**

- Needed to Secure Equipment - Project still on?
- Comply with license terms
- Monitor State Dept. Advisories
- Contingencies
  - Team Safety
  - Equipment
Travel Security

• Some concern regarding those who booked through Connexxus and those that did not

Office of Security Review

Needed to seek Department of Defense/OSR release of video of defense article.

Other International Research Concerns