

# Behavior Dynamics Journal

A bi-monthly publication focusing on the Operational Application of Behavior

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## INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS:

GENERAL GUIDELINES in regards to Screening, Secondary screening, and Random selection

- The possibility always remains that an individual or individuals could be selected for random screening by officials at airports, border crossings and immigration. The DHS (Department of Homeland Security) estimates that approximately 12 percent of US bound travelers are randomly selected for additional screening at last point of departure (LPD) airports overseas. Random selection is still employed by TSA (Transportation Security Administration) in the US.
- There are combinations of secondary procedures that an individual could experience. Some may cause a stressful experience on an operator and could affect a traveler's ability to maintain cover. We will discuss some of those below in detail and in the pre-trip travel guide. The general procedure is that the traveler waits for a period of time for a cursory secondary screening or a harsher secondary screening. It is important to note that almost always during this waiting period, individual(s) are "observed" remotely or in person for any nervous or suspicious behavior while waiting for secondary. The cursory secondary is usually reserved for "typical" travelers who may require additional processing such as those arriving with immigration visas etc. Checks on traveler's name, dates and places of birth and passport may be done in addition to searches of personal property. If there is any level of suspicion at the cursory level, it will lead to a more serious and intense level of secondary screening.
- The intense level of secondary screening could include a prolonged in-depth interview/interrogation. It will certainly involve a painstaking search of all personal belongings. It could also involve a forensic type of examination of personal electronics, phones etc. Ireland's Garda can image or copy electronic devices, including telephones once an individual is taken into secondary screening. In some countries, officials can collect fingerprints or other biometrics to determine if the traveler has any past history or if they are not who they say they are. Travelers can be held in secondary for hours if need be. In some cases, security officials have been known to telephone a traveler's contacts to verify a trip story.
- Officials can also access national and international databases to confirm or dispel their suspicions. The internet is now often used to verify information. Some security officials, immigration, border guards etc. will access the internet to locate hotels, conferences, or companies stated along with a traveler's trip story to confirm or suspect a traveler's trip story. Use of the internet also allows security officials to view a traveler's social media and any business accounts, email or even LinkedIn accounts. If you are telling a trip story that involves business, sales marketing etc. one should have the appropriate social links that lend credibility to what you are saying. If you don't, that can have a direct effect on how you clear any type of secondary screening should you be selected. If 1 and 1 keeps adding up to 3, you are going to have to explain more.