Overview

The U.S. Department of State has loisgued messaging for the purpose of helping U.S. citizen travelers abroad make the right decisions to keep themselves safe and secure. Some of these were for short-term issues, and others explained longerm, systemic issues affecting the security environment in a particular country or even across an entire region. Many in the private sector use these products to help formulate security plans for their personnel or facilities positioned abroad, or to govern their policies for international travel.

That system has now changed, and many of the products travelers have come to know (such as Trave Warnings and Emergency Messages) are being reformatted, rethought, and simplified. This report will help OSAC constituents better understand this new system and inverse and interests abroad. Although many organizations who incorporate consular messaging into security tripwires may have to edit their induces security policies, OSAC assesses that these changes will help the private sector and

January 10 launched improvements to public safety a security messaging that will make it easier for U.S. citize to access clear, timely, and reliable information about evo country in the world. CA has replaced its forme countrywide products, Travel Warnings and Travel Ale with a single Travel Advisory" for each country. Each Travel Advisory for every country around the world will be paired with a level of advice based on one of four tiers.



Every country will have a Travel Advisory, providing tiered levels of advice ranging from L4evels 1 Further country-specific details such as entry/exit requirements, local laws and customs, health conditions, transportation, and other relevant topics will accompany these levels and be available on the same country page. The four levels of advice are:

<u>Level 1</u>- Exercise Normal Precautions: This is the lowest advisory level for safety and security risk. There is some risk in any international travel. Conditions in other countries may differ from those in the United States and may change at any time.

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<u>Level 2</u>-Exercise Increased Caution: Be aware of heightened risks to safety and security. The Department of State provides additional advice for travelers in these areas in the Travel Advisory. Conditions in any country may change at any time.

<u>Level 3</u>- Reconsider Travel: Avoid travel due to serious risks to safety and security. The Department of State provides additional advice for travelers in these areas in the Travel Advisory. Conditions in any country may change at any time.

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In addition, U.S. embassies and consulates around the world will now istarts," a single system replace the former Emergency Messages and Security Messages will be labeled according to their issue: Security Alert; Health Alert; Weather Alert; or Demonstration Alert.

Where Can I Find the New Advisories?

While the nomenclature and formatting is changing, the locations generally are not, with the exception that travelers can now access all safety and security information for any given conuatry single page. All Travel Advisories (formerly Travel Warnings arts)Awell still be found on individual <u>country page</u>salong with the new Alerts (formerly Emergency and Security Messages). Alerts will also be found on individual embassy and consulate websites, which themselves have all been update over the last year. Updated Travel Advisories or newly issued Alerts will also the Smart <u>Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP</u>) enrollees.

And as always, any Travel Advisories or Alerts issued in Washington or around the world will be posted to the <u>OSAC websit</u> and will be viewable without an OSAC password to the general public. OSAC will also maintain the entire archival database of messaging dating back nearly a decade; main constituents use this database as a way to research how the **speciniv** ironment in a given location may have changed over a certain period of time. Finally, those subscrib<u>OSAC newsletters</u> ill receive word of any Travel Advisory updates or newslete Alers in the newsletter distributed immediately following their release.

What If I Have Other Questions?

Many questions are answered on the International Travel webpage/hich includes a link term <u>FAQ</u>s These include how the overall level for a country is determined, how often Travel Advisory levels will be reviewed, and whether the Department of State considers political considerations or the

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