

Executive Protection & Counter-Surveillance

A risk-led operating playbook for protecting executives, sensitive environments, information and strategic activity.

ASSESS	PREVENT	PROTECT	DETECT	RESPOND
Threat & exposure	Reduce vulnerability	People & places	Anomalies & compromise	Escalate safely

EXECUTIVE PURPOSE

Integrate executive protection, travel security, information protection and lawful counter-surveillance into one governance model focused on consequence, discretion and continuity.

YAKAMICHI PERSPECTIVE

Protection is strongest when intelligence, physical security, cyber hygiene and executive behavior reinforce one another.

Contents & Operating Principles

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SCOPE & SAFETY

This playbook is defensive. Counter-surveillance activities should be lawful, authorized, proportionate and conducted by qualified professionals. It does not provide instructions for covert interception, evading law enforcement or defeating legitimate security controls.

Executive Protection Governance & Risk

Executive protection is an enterprise risk discipline, not simply close protection. It protects people whose compromise, injury, coercion, disappearance or information exposure could create disproportionate consequences for the organization.

ROLE	ACCOUNTABILITY
Board / Executive Sponsor	Risk appetite, material threats and program oversight
Security Leader	Protection strategy, standards, escalation and coordination
Executive / Principal	Compliance with agreed protective measures and reporting
Protective Intelligence	Threat monitoring, assessment and warning
Cyber / IT	Digital identity, device and account protection
Facilities / Travel	Physical environments, transport and logistics
Legal / HR	Authority, privacy, employment and incident considerations

- Define who qualifies for enhanced protection and why.
- Use risk-based measures rather than status-based convenience.
- Protect executive privacy while preserving necessary security visibility.
- Coordinate physical, cyber, travel and information controls.
- Review protection after material changes in role, threat or exposure.

GOVERNANCE RULE

The goal is proportionate protection. Excessive measures can impair business and privacy; inadequate measures can leave predictable vulnerabilities.

Threat, Vulnerability & Exposure Assessment

Protection begins with a structured assessment of credible threats, vulnerabilities, exposure and consequence. Assessments should distinguish evidence from assumption and be refreshed when conditions change.

DIMENSION	EXAMPLES
Threat	Targeted harassment, crime, hostile interest, protest, insider concern, stalking
Vulnerability	Predictable routines, weak access control, exposed personal data, insecure travel
Exposure	Public profile, transactions, disputes, sensitive negotiations, geopolitical activity
Consequence	Safety, coercion, confidential information, continuity, reputation
Controls	Protective staffing, access, cyber controls, travel measures, monitoring

Risk Triggers

- New executive appointment or increased public profile.
- Major transaction, restructuring, litigation or contentious decision.
- Travel to a materially higher-risk location.
- Credible threatening communication or suspicious approach.
- Personal information leak, account compromise or doxxing.
- Repeated unexplained anomalies around residence, office or travel.

ASSESSMENT PRINCIPLE

Avoid converting unusual behavior into certainty. Record observations, corroborate facts and escalate according to risk rather than speculation.

Protective Intelligence & Early Warning

Protective intelligence helps leadership recognize relevant changes early. It combines lawful information gathering, internal reporting and structured assessment to identify credible risks to protected people and activities.

INPUT	PURPOSE
Open-source information	Identify public threats, exposure and contextual change
Internal reporting	Capture concerning contacts, anomalies and incidents
Travel / geopolitical intelligence	Understand location-specific risk
Cyber telemetry	Detect account compromise and identity exposure
Security observations	Identify repeated access or environmental concerns
Executive reporting	Capture direct approaches, harassment or unusual contact

Assessment Output

- What happened and what is verified?
- Why might it matter to the protected person or organization?
- What alternative explanations remain plausible?
- What is the assessed level of concern and confidence?
- What protective action, if any, is proportionate now?
- Which indicators would justify escalation or de-escalation?

INTELLIGENCE DISCIPLINE

Protective intelligence should reduce uncertainty, not amplify fear. Separate facts, judgments, confidence and information gaps.

Residence, Office & Venue Security

Protective environments should reduce unauthorized access, preserve privacy, support emergency response and avoid creating unnecessary friction.

LAYER	CONTROL OBJECTIVE
Perimeter / approach	Detect and manage unauthorized approach where appropriate
Entry	Credential visitors, deliveries and service personnel
Interior	Protect private work, conversations, records and devices
Life safety	Emergency communications, evacuation and medical response
Information	Control displays, documents, conferencing and sensitive discussions
Vendors	Authorize, escort or supervise access according to risk

Pre-Event / Venue Review

- Confirm access points, private areas and emergency exits.
- Identify who controls guest, vendor and staff access.
- Protect confidential meeting spaces and executive holding areas.
- Coordinate medical, fire and emergency procedures.
- Establish communication and escalation contacts.
- Review changes on the day rather than relying solely on an earlier plan.

ENVIRONMENT PRINCIPLE

Good protective design creates layers. No single receptionist, camera, lock or guard should carry the entire burden.

Travel, Movement & Event Protection

Travel changes exposure. The appropriate level of support should reflect destination risk, executive profile, purpose of travel, local conditions and ability to obtain reliable assistance.

PHASE	CONTROL
Pre-travel	Risk assessment, itinerary governance, contacts, medical and communications
Transport	Vetted arrangements appropriate to local risk and business need
Accommodation	Location, access, privacy and emergency considerations
Meetings	Venue, attendee, information and transport coordination
Movement	Avoid unnecessary public disclosure of live itinerary
Contingency	Alternate transport, communications and emergency assistance

Travel Escalation Indicators

- Rapid deterioration in local security or civil conditions.
- Credible threat connected to traveler, employer or event.
- Loss of communications, documentation or critical device.
- Unexpected itinerary exposure or unauthorized disclosure.
- Medical emergency, detention, major transport disruption or natural hazard.

TRAVEL PRINCIPLE

Security should preserve business flexibility. Plans need alternatives, not brittle schedules that fail when one assumption changes.

Executive Digital & Information Exposure

Physical protection and digital exposure increasingly converge. Public records, social media, compromised accounts and device data can reveal relationships, routines, travel and sensitive organizational activity.

AREA	PROTECTIVE MEASURE
Accounts	Strong authentication, recovery protection and compromise monitoring
Devices	Managed security, encryption, updates and remote-loss procedures
Personal data	Reduce unnecessary public exposure and data-broker footprint where lawful
Social media	Avoid real-time disclosure of sensitive movement or private locations
Communications	Use approved channels for sensitive business information
Family / staff	Provide proportionate awareness where their exposure affects executive risk

Executive Hygiene

- Use separate business and personal identities where appropriate.
- Treat unexpected credential, payment and urgent-contact requests as verification events.
- Report lost devices and suspicious account activity immediately.
- Avoid posting sensitive travel or location details in real time.
- Review who can access calendars, travel plans and contact data.

CONVERGENCE PRINCIPLE

An executive's digital footprint can become a map of physical routines. Information protection is therefore part of personal protection.

TSCM Governance & Technical Security Inspections

Technical Surveillance Counter-Measures (TSCM) is a specialized defensive discipline used to assess sensitive environments for unauthorized surveillance risks. Engagements should be authorized, legally reviewed where necessary and performed by qualified personnel.

STAGE	GOVERNANCE REQUIREMENT
Authorization	Written scope, responsible client authority and lawful access
Risk definition	Why the inspection is required and what areas/assets are in scope
Provider assurance	Competence, confidentiality, equipment governance and conflicts
Site control	Coordinate access without unnecessarily advertising sensitive details
Findings	Document observations, confidence, limitations and remediation
Evidence	Preserve potential evidence and escalate suspected unlawful devices appropriately
Follow-up	Remediate vulnerabilities and define conditions for reassessment

When to Consider a Professional TSCM Review

- Before or after highly sensitive meetings or transactions where risk justifies it.
- Following credible evidence of unauthorized surveillance or unexplained technical anomalies.
- After uncontrolled construction, renovation or third-party access to sensitive areas.
- When an executive office, boardroom or other sensitive environment changes materially.
- As part of a proportionate assurance program for exceptionally sensitive facilities.

TSCM PRINCIPLE

A technical inspection is not a substitute for access control, cyber security or information discipline. It is one layer in a broader protective system.

Insider, Vendor & Sensitive Meeting Risk

Sensitive activity often depends on employees, contractors, advisers, cleaners, maintenance personnel, event staff and technology providers. Access should be proportionate to need and consequence.

RISK	CONTROL
Unnecessary access	Least privilege and role-based physical/information access
Vendor presence	Pre-authorization, identity verification and appropriate supervision
Sensitive meetings	Attendee control, approved conferencing and document handling
Temporary staff	Defined access duration and return/revocation procedures
Departures	Prompt credential, device and access revocation
Concerns	Clear reporting and fair investigation procedures

Sensitive Meeting Protocol

- Define the sensitivity of the discussion before choosing controls.
- Limit attendees and distribution to genuine need-to-know.
- Use approved rooms, devices and conferencing services.
- Control unattended documents, whiteboards and displays.
- Confirm guest/vendor access and room servicing arrangements.
- Record actions and decisions without creating unnecessary sensitive copies.

INSIDER-RISK PRINCIPLE

Protective controls should focus on access and behavior, not stereotypes or unsupported suspicion.

Incident Response, Crisis Coordination & Evidence

Protection incidents can cross physical security, cyber, privacy, legal, HR and law-enforcement boundaries. Escalation should be clear before pressure arrives.

INCIDENT	IMMEDIATE PRIORITY
Threat / harassment	Safety, preservation of communications and assessment
Unauthorized access	Protect people, control area and preserve relevant records
Lost / stolen device	Personal safety, account/device containment and reporting
Suspected surveillance device	Do not unnecessarily disturb; secure area and escalate to qualified authority
Travel crisis	Account for traveler, establish communications and coordinate assistance
Information compromise	Contain exposure, preserve evidence and assess affected activity

Response Principles

- Protect life and immediate safety first.
- Use established emergency services and law enforcement when appropriate.
- Preserve evidence without encouraging unqualified handling.
- Maintain confidentiality and need-to-know.
- Record material decisions, times and accountable owners.
- Review protective measures after the incident and close systemic gaps.

EVIDENCE PRINCIPLE

When suspected criminal or unlawful surveillance activity is involved, preserve the scene and engage appropriate qualified professionals or authorities rather than improvising technical handling.

180-Day Executive Protection Program

WINDOW	PRIORITY	DELIVERABLES
0–30 Days	Governance & baseline	Sponsor, protected-person criteria, threat/exposure baseline, escalation contacts
31–60 Days	Environment & digital exposure	Office/residence reviews, account/device hardening, information exposure reduction
61–90 Days	Travel & sensitive activity	Travel standards, venue protocol, sensitive-meeting controls
91–120 Days	TSCM & vendor assurance	Authorized provider model, inspection governance, vendor access review
121–150 Days	Exercise response	Threat/travel/information incident tabletop with executives and support teams
151–180 Days	Institutionalize	Metrics, periodic reassessment, remediation tracking and executive reporting

Program Outcomes

- Risk-based protection criteria are documented.
- Executives understand reporting and protective expectations.
- Travel and sensitive meeting protocols are usable.
- Digital and physical exposure are assessed together.
- TSCM is governed as a qualified defensive service.
- Incidents have clear escalation and evidence procedures.
- Material findings are tracked to closure.

PROGRAM PRINCIPLE

Executive protection should feel calm, discreet and prepared. The program earns trust by reducing uncertainty without turning ordinary business into permanent crisis mode.

Executive Protection Risk Assessment

FIELD	RECORD
Protected person / role	
Business consequence	Why enhanced protection may be justified
Threat indicators	Verified concerns and sources
Exposure	Public profile, travel, transactions, disputes
Vulnerabilities	Physical, digital, procedural and dependency gaps
Current controls	Existing protective measures
Risk judgment	Low / Moderate / High / Critical + confidence
Actions	Owner, due date and escalation threshold

Executive Travel Security Checklist

- ☐ Destination and itinerary risk reviewed
- ☐ Emergency and medical contacts confirmed
- ☐ Transport and accommodation arrangements verified
- ☐ Sensitive itinerary distribution minimized
- ☐ Devices/accounts prepared for travel risk
- ☐ Alternate communications available
- ☐ Meeting/venue considerations reviewed
- ☐ Traveler knows escalation contacts
- ☐ Material local changes monitored
- ☐ Post-travel incidents/anomalies reported

Sensitive Meeting Checklist

- ☐ Sensitivity level defined
- ☐ Attendees limited to need-to-know
- ☐ Room/access arrangements appropriate
- ☐ Approved conferencing and devices used
- ☐ Visitor/vendor access understood
- ☐ Documents/displays controlled
- ☐ Whiteboards/materials cleared after meeting
- ☐ Actions and records distributed appropriately
- ☐ Unusual technical/physical concerns reported

TSCM Engagement Governance Record

FIELD	RECORD
Authorized requester	Name / role / authority
Reason	Risk basis for professional inspection
Scope	Authorized rooms, assets and dates
Provider	Qualified provider and confidentiality terms
Legal/privacy review	Required? completed?
Findings classification	Observation / concern / confirmed issue
Evidence handling	Responsible authority / professional
Remediation	Actions, owners and due dates
Reassessment	Trigger / date
IMPORTANT This record governs a professional defensive engagement. Technical inspection methods and equipment operation should remain with appropriately trained and authorized specialists.	

Incident & Anomaly Reporting Record

FIELD	DETAIL
Date / time	_____
Location / context	_____
Reporter	_____
Observation	Facts only: what was seen, heard or received
Immediate action	Safety / access / account / area measures
Evidence	Messages, access records, CCTV or other lawful records preserved
Assessment	Concern level, confidence and alternatives
Escalation	Security / legal / HR / authorities as appropriate
Follow-up	Owner and review date

Executive Protection Maturity Model & Checklist

LEVEL	CHARACTERISTICS	EXECUTIVE MEANING
1 — Reactive	Incident-led, fragmented physical/digital protection	Unpredictable response
2 — Developing	Basic assessments, travel and executive controls	Some coverage, inconsistent integration
3 — Managed	Risk-led program, intelligence, TSCM governance and exercises	Repeatable protection
4 — Adaptive	Continuous assessment, integrated intelligence and lessons learned	Protection evolves with exposure

Executive Checklist

- ☐ Executive protection governance and sponsor defined
- ☐ Threat/vulnerability assessments refreshed when risk changes
- ☐ Protective intelligence reporting established
- ☐ Office/residence/venue security reviewed proportionately
- ☐ Travel security protocol operating
- ☐ Executive digital exposure addressed
- ☐ TSCM engagements governed and professionally delivered
- ☐ Sensitive meeting and vendor controls established
- ☐ Incident escalation and evidence procedures documented
- ☐ Program exercised and material findings tracked

Yakamichi Perspective

Executive protection is not a wall around a person. It is a disciplined system that reduces avoidable exposure, detects meaningful change and gives leaders room to operate with confidence.

REQUEST A CONFIDENTIAL CONSULTATION

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