

OSAC. Overseas Security Advisory Committee¹

What it is, how you can join, what benefit it brings to your programs

What is OSAC?

OSAC is a Federal Advisory Committee that falls under the authority of the U.S. State Department and is funded by the U.S. government.

Created in 1985, this organization is basically a partnership between the U.S. government/Diplomatic Security Services and the private sector of American interests abroad. OSAC's purpose is to foster communication and collaboration among U.S. interests abroad, to explore best practices among U.S. interests on the topic of security, and to provide advice to U.S. organizations concerned about security across the world.

OSAC is comprised of sub-divisions, called "Country Councils" which are dedicated to concentrated work around issues that U.S. private non-governmental organizations face in specific countries.

For a complete description of OSAC's history, mission and authority, visit the OSAC website: <https://www.osac.gov/Pages/AboutUs.aspx>

The OSAC France Country Council

Our branch runs out of the U.S. Embassy and is chaired by our current RSO (Regional Security Officer), Marian Cotter - 2015-2018.

There is an OSAC steering committee comprised of civilian representatives from the private sector that works with Marion to put in place a set of actions and resources to assist U.S. businesses and organizations in France on questions of Safety and Security of their business installations, business and safety threats, and risks that that employees and clients might face.

Current members of the Steering Committee include:

- Eric Marion, Disney France: co-chair
- Dominique Fantini, Abbvie France
- Rachid Bhiri, Starbucks
- Philippe Guillon, McDonald's
- Alexandra Mitchell, CEA Study Abroad & APUAF
- James Landis, U.S. Embassy

1 APUAF Contact :

Alexandra Mitchell (CEA Paris) - Alexandra.Mitchell@GoWithCEA.com



Crisis Management Toolbox kit

How can you join?

First, here are the eligibility requirements:

OSAC is open to any American-owned, not-for-profit organization, or any enterprise incorporated in the U.S. (parent company, home campus, home office) operating or doing business overseas. There is no cost to be a member or to benefit from services and events.

Thus, as a school or study abroad program, you must justify that either you have a home campus or a home office in the U.S. or your local organization in France is American-owned. Both non-profit and profit organizations are welcome.

How to enroll:

Read the webpage dedicated to this topic:

<https://www.osac.gov/Pages/Login.aspx>

Your U.S. office/campus should enroll your world-wide organization if you are linked to a U.S. home office or campus. Then, the department in charge of your membership in the U.S. must name you as a representative for France. This way, you gain access to all OSAC resources as a named member of the France Country Council.

If you have no U.S. office, you can register directly from the website using your French entity.

Once your organization is a member:

Go to the OSAC website and create a user account. This gives you access to all the online resources. To do this, you need to go to this page:

<https://www.osac.gov/Pages/Login.aspx>

and Apply as a User to an Existing Constituent. Fill out the top portion and then choose the daily updates you would like to receive by email by filling out the Subscription Options. Same for Website Options.

France Country Council Google Group:

Secondly, you'll want to join the OSAC's version of a "listserve". This Google group is comprised of member representatives in France, the U.S. Embassy Security officers, as well as OSAC Analysts and Administrators based in Washington. The listserve is used mainly during active treatment of risks, threats or incidents, but is also a platform for sharing among constituents.

For example, recently an OSAC member sent out a request asking whether members could recommend a reputable car company for clients and personnel traveling through France on business. For APUAF members, this group is especially helpful during a crisis incident. The Google Group will share important updates and foster conversations and sharing among members about whether businesses are closing, repatriation is being considered, whether there is a travel ban, etc. Good data for us to consider when treating the same questions for our programs and students.



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To join the Google Group, you should email Joseph Benyam (BenyamJ@state.gov). Joseph is based in Washington and manages the Google Group.

OSAC events:

You can attend all OSAC events sponsored in France. These include:

→ Annual Country Council Meetings hosted in Paris

- The 2015 meeting hosted by Disney treated Terrorism in France after Charlie Hebdo. We learned a lot that became applicable and useful in managing the Nov 13th attacks one month later.

- The 2016 meeting hosted by Westin Hotels treated the Impact of Terrorism on the Tourist Industry in France.

→ Workshops organized 0-2 times a year

This is a good opportunity for us to organize various special topic workshops particularly applicable to the sector of education.

In 2016 OSAC organized a special meeting to treat the preparations and security around the Euro 2016 Football tournament hosted in France.

What benefit OSAC brings to your programs

Joining OSAC can benefit you in the following ways:

→ Connectivity with the U.S. Embassy. While OSAC is not consular services, there is some cross over. For example, consular services presented at the last annual meeting, giving us a wide visibility of Embassy efforts. Always good to have a foot in embassy events.

→ A respected resource. OSAC adds to your toolkit of unbiased and responsible sources to help make decisions about programming, incident management and security levels.

→ Knowing what the U.S. sector is doing. When faced with the hard questions, knowing what other U.S. entities are doing to mitigate risk and threat can be helpful.

→ Having daily updates on happenings in your region. By signing up for the daily summary of incidents, you get a big picture about what types of incidents are happening across Europe.

→ Risk Management training. Learn more about current risks and threats from a government perspective. Know more about how the U.S. government and the French government work together on questions of security.