



TSCM - Ensuring Your Private Conversations Stay Private

Think about the last conversation you had on your phone. While you likely weren't discussing state secrets, the discussion was certainly intended to be private to the participants. Now imagine the details of your emails, hands-free phone conversations in your car, or even the last document that came off your wireless printer all being available to an unknown party who was intent on compromising your information for business or personal gain. Uncomfortable at the least and business or politically damaging at the very worst.

Red Five Security experts mitigate these types of situations every day by employing a strategy that can and should be part of every company, private family or family office's overall security and risk strategy - TSCM.

Technical surveillance counter measures (TSCM) sweeps are known by many different names: bug sweeping, TSCM inspections, electronic counter-surveillance, etc. But the objective is simple—an electronic and physical check or inspection of a room, building, area, vehicle, yacht, or aircraft. Working with a provider like Red Five who understands both the importance of the equipment used and the quality of the team performing the work is crucial to your security planning.

Given the sensitivity of client communications, Red Five deploys the best trained technicians who utilize the most current, state-of-the-art equipment. In fact, our lead technician is a retired United States Secret Service agent and was a technical advisor at the White House, primarily responsible for security onsite. He also conducted numerous comprehensive physical and technical security programs for advance protection trips involving the President and Vice President. In addition, Red Five team members have worked at the highest levels of government and the military and honed their craft over many years.

There are two crucial areas of TSCM, Quarterly and Live TSCM Monitoring, that should be considered.

Quarterly TSCM Sweeps: Red Five's technicians perform sweeps at sites ranging from single-room apartments to extensive, large footprint office buildings. The procedures utilized are capable of identifying both active and passive surveillance devices that can record and transmit conversations. Red Five also performs physical searches for hidden devices that operate in a passive collection mode. Quarterly sweeps occur at irregular intervals in order to ensure that adversaries cannot anticipate the inspections.

Red Five provides a comprehensive report after the sweep, which outlines any detected devices that may threaten communications in the inspected area, and also provides recommendations for measures that the client can undertake to mitigate the risk of compromise. These suggested preventative measures address the telephone system, mobile devices, copy and fax machines, as well as company policies and executive communications.

Live TSCM Monitoring: Along with the routine needs outlined above, sweeps and electronic monitoring for sensitive corporate and political events and conferences (e.g., board meetings) are also recommended. The practice assures that listening devices are not present in the meeting space prior to the event and provides the ability to detect any new devices introduced into the space during the occasion.

TSCM is just one part of an overall security and risk strategy that Red Five builds for clients every day. Handling out-of-the-ordinary requests and ensuring that private conversations, routine or otherwise, stay private is part of the larger picture when it comes to securing the lives of our clients.

If you would like to learn more on how to incorporate TSCM into your overall security approach, contact us at consult@red5security.com or call our office at 888-RED5-007.