



INDICATORS OF POTENTIAL TERRORIST THREATS

SEPTEMBER 2002

Message from the Inspector General

None of us will forget the horrific events of September 11, 2001, at the Pentagon and the New York World Trade Center. During those attacks and in their aftermath, we witnessed the remarkable efforts of our nation's law enforcement personnel to protect us and prevent future terrorist acts. We also witnessed the unification of Americans everywhere, as they resolutely supported efforts to combat terrorism.

We all play an important role as Department of Defense employees in contributing to the Force Protection mission and the effort to enhance Homeland Defense. In protecting the men and women of the Department of Defense, our facilities and programs, and other national assets, law enforcement personnel in particular need to be alert for activities that may be precursors to terrorist acts. DoD law enforcement personnel are especially well trained and disposed to provide this vigilance and are specifically guided by DoD Directive 5200.27.

To assist their efforts, we offer this listing of activities or conditions that may be "Indicators of Potential Terrorist Threats." The activities and conditions listed are by no means all-inclusive. Further, some activities may reflect innocent behavior or relate to other types of criminal behavior. However, we must be aware that even outwardly innocent activities may be part of a larger scheme with the ultimate goal of harming our people and resources and disrupting our vital mission of protecting our citizens and our way of life.

If you observe these activities/conditions or they are reported to you, you must share them immediately with other appropriate law enforcement or intelligence agencies.

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Suspicious activities near, on, or about Government buildings or installations

- ❑ Theft of badges, credentials, ID cards, Government/military/emergency vehicles, military apparel, etc. Discovery of false identifications.
- ❑ Photographing, sketching, or surveillance of military facilities.
- ❑ Trespassing near key facilities, particularly by multiple persons.
- ❑ Uncommon or abandoned vehicles, packages, or containers.
- ❑ Person(s) observed searching trash containers or placing items in trash containers adjacent to a Government facility or residence of Government personnel.
- ❑ Large thefts of sensitive military property such as computers and particularized deployment equipment (gas masks/cold weather gear).
- ❑ Purchase through Government sales of military hardware with intent or indications to refurbish to working condition.
- ❑ Purchase/attempted purchase, theft, or possession of large numbers of weapons or of heavy weapons.
- ❑ Purchase/theft/possession of explosives or supplies necessary for the manufacture of explosive devices.
- ❑ Increase in cyber attacks/probes.
- ❑ Increase in the number of threats to Government facilities that require evacuation.
- ❑ Theft of Government vehicles, vehicle passes, uniforms, or standard operating procedures.
- ❑ Unknown workers trying to gain access to facilities for repairs, installation of equipment, etc.
- ❑ E-mail attempting to obtain information regarding the facility, personnel, or operating procedures.
- ❑ Unusual patterns of seemingly unimportant activity: patterns of travel (vehicle, foot, boat, air) or routes of travel that seem to serve no purpose may be used as a means to observe targeted individuals, activities, installations, or ports. For example, a boater who routinely passes along

the Ft. Belvoir Potomac River waterfront, yet he is clearly not a fisherman, water skier, etc.

- ❑ Individual's establishing businesses or roadside food stands adjacent or in proximity to Government facilities.
- ❑ Unknown persons or occupied vehicles loitering in vicinity of a Government facility for an extended period of time.



Conversations about Government facilities, programs, or personnel

- ❑ Unknown persons attempting to gain information about facilities by engaging DoD personnel or their families in conversation.
- ❑ Person(s) expressing support for the September 11, 2001, attacks.
- ❑ Person(s) advocating violence against certain religious, racial, or ethnic groups.
- ❑ Person(s) sympathetic to groups who advocate the violent overthrow of the U.S. Government.
- ❑ Suspicious requests for purchase or lease of or training in potentially dangerous instrumentalities, e.g., airplanes, large trucks, underwater gear near naval installation.
- ❑ Remarks threatening or potentially threatening Government personnel, facilities, and equipment.
- ❑ Intrusive questions posed by strangers about personal information or information about Government duties and responsibilities.



Delivery of suspicious mail, packages, or other items

- ❑ Mail that has no return address.

- ❑ Mail addressed only to title of prospective recipient or using an incorrect title.
- ❑ Misspelled words or defective address.
- ❑ Restrictive markings such as "confidential" or "personal for."
- ❑ Excessive postage.
- ❑ Stains, discoloration, oiliness, crystallization, or strange odor.
- ❑ Abnormal size; excessive wrapping.
- ❑ Wires, metal foil, or string protruding.
- ❑ Unusually heavy or unbalanced.
- ❑ Lopsided or uneven envelope.
- ❑ Very rigid envelope.
- ❑ Springiness.
- ❑ Suspicious package drop-offs/attempted drop-offs.



General suspicious activity that may cause concern

- ❑ Large group of persons (particularly men) occupying a house, apartment, motel room(s) with no apparent purpose or the leasing of highrise dwellings or office space overlooking Government facilities. No apparent patterns of departure/arrival, e.g., consistent with work commute.
- ❑ Establishment of large bank accounts by recent arrivals in the United States.
- ❑ Personnel in possession of large amounts of cash for no apparent reason.
- ❑ Personnel attempting to purchase in cash expensive means of transportation (vehicles, boats, etc.).
- ❑ Suspicious general aviation aircraft operating in proximity to Government facilities.