

PRE-INCIDENT INDICATORS

Acts of terrorism are usually well planned months or even years in advance. While the activities of terrorists and extremists are very subtle and covert, their attacks are often preceded by activities known as **Pre-Incident Indicators**. Pre-Incident Indicators can include a number of "signature" crimes—such as ID theft and burglary—but can also include seemingly harmless activities, such as taking photographs, renting apartments, or making large cash purchases. Terrorists also conduct surveillance of their targets, beginning well in advance of an attack and often continuing until just prior to the attack. Attention should be given to the following indicators, which may indicate an association with a terrorist organization or serve as an early warning of terrorist activity.

- ▶ Characteristics of a Terrorist
- ▶ Recruitment and Propaganda
- ▶ Training
- ▶ Movement of Personnel
- ▶ Acquisition of Money

What are Some Characteristics of Terrorists?

- ▶ Typically focused and committed to their cause
- ▶ Team-oriented and very disciplined
- ▶ Trained to be familiar with their physical environment, whether it be a 747 jumbo jet or a courthouse
- ▶ Will employ a variety of vehicles and communicate predominately by cell phone, E-Mail, or text messaging services
- ▶ Well prepared to spend years in a "sleeper" mode until it is time to attack
- ▶ In many cases, will try to fit in and not draw attention to themselves
- ▶ May appear "normal" in their appearance and behavior while portraying themselves as a tourist, student, or businessperson
- ▶ May be found traveling in a mixed group of men, women, and children of varying ages, who are unaware of their purpose
- ▶ Trained to avoid confrontations with law enforcement and therefore can be expected to project a "nice-guy" image
- ▶ Known to use disguises or undergo plastic surgery, especially when featured on police wanted posters

How do Terrorists Gain Support?

Terrorists gain support for their cause through a number of open and closed meetings, and they share information about their cause through:

- ▶ Public rallies, demonstrations, and private meetings sponsored by support groups
- ▶ Posters, leaflets, web sites, or underground press publications

How do Terrorists Prepare for their "Mission"?

In order to prepare for their mission, members of terrorist organizations routinely:

- ▶ Conduct and participate in military-type maneuvers, demolition exercises, and weapons training
- ▶ Review and practice tactical training, including the use of communications equipment, tactical weapons, and/or weapons of mass destruction
- ▶ Attend, participate in, and practice spiritual indoctrination (to prepare for fanatical self-sacrifice), self-defense courses, flight training, HazMat training, and SCUBA training

How do Terrorists Move Within our Community?

Terrorists seek to blend in with the surrounding community, often establishing their existence through a new identity. Terrorists tend to establish and maintain their new identity through:

- ▶ Obtaining counterfeit or altered driver licenses
- ▶ Altering vehicle registrations
- ▶ Carrying suspicious or forged identity documents
- ▶ Possessing photocopies of original identification documents (driver licenses, passports, birth certificates, social security cards, etc.)
- ▶ Establishing numerous residences through leased or rented property, or by staying in numerous hotels
- ▶ Carrying large amounts of cash and/or using cash payments for items that the average citizen might purchase with credit

How do Terrorists Support their Cause?

Without adequate funding, terrorists cannot conduct their mission. Terrorists will therefore rely on easily obtainable, but illegal, funding. Law enforcement personnel refer to these criminal activities as "signature crimes of terrorism," which include:

- ▶ Committing credit card fraud
- ▶ Producing and selling bogus prepaid telephone calling cards
- ▶ Selling stolen property or property bought with a stolen credit card
- ▶ Counterfeiting currency and credit cards
- ▶ Participating in coupon fraud
- ▶ Committing bank, mail, telephone, visa, and immigration fraud
- ▶ Transporting and selling drugs

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

What kinds of things might the public encounter that could indicate terrorism support or terrorist activity?

- ▶ Intelligence Collection Practices
- ▶ Theft or Large Cash Purchases of Common or Unusual Items
- ▶ Suspicious Rentals
- ▶ Unusual or Odd Discoveries

Intelligence Collection Practices

- ▶ Photographing, diagramming, or obtaining photographs, diagrams, or blueprints of infrastructure or potential targets (bridges, power grid/plants, water plants, federal/government buildings, etc.)
- ▶ Possessing or purchasing maps of potential targets
- ▶ Possessing or purchasing global positioning systems (GPS)
- ▶ Walking, biking, or driving in or near potential targets, without a specific and valid reason (may indicate surveillance, trial runs, testing of the target's security system, or testing of how authorities respond to their actions)