

This document contains the following three U.S. government documents about the March 18, 2003 High security alert:

- DOT Transportation Security Information Report, issued March 17, 2003: Threat level raised from Yellow (Elevated) to Orange (High)
- DOT Increased Security Risk Notice, issued March 14, 2003: For hazmat workers and companies
- Operation Liberty Shield details, National Infrastructure Protection Center (www.nipc.gov)

U.S. Department of
Transportation

Office of Intelligence
and Security (OIS)

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY INFORMATION REPORT

Subject: Homeland Security Advisory System -- Threat Level Raised from Yellow (Elevated) to Orange (High)

Number 03-03
Expiration: None

Issued: March 17, 2003

TSIR 03-03 (Elevation in Threat level): ORANGE

The U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta calls your attention to U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge's statement this evening raising the Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS) Threat Condition level from Yellow (Elevated) to Orange (High). This TSIR provides the latest advisory from U.S. law enforcement and intelligence agencies addressing the current threat and reminding industry to take appropriate precautions and report any unusual activities to the FBI. This advisory is based upon publicly released information and may be shared within the transportation community.

Information: STATEMENT BY HOMELAND SECURITY SECRETARY TOM RIDGE

"The Department of Homeland Security in consultation with the Homeland Security Council, has made the decision to raise the national threat level from an Elevated to High risk of terrorist attack or Level Orange. The Intelligence Community believes that terrorists will attempt multiple attacks against U.S. and Coalition targets worldwide in the event of a U.S.-led military campaign against Saddam Hussein. A large volume of reporting across a range of sources, some of which are highly reliable, indicates that Al-Qaida probably would attempt to launch terrorist attacks against U.S. interests claiming they were defending Muslims or the "Iraqi people" rather than Saddam Hussein's regime.

While the March 1 arrest of senior Al Qaida operative, Khalid Shaykh Muhammad (KSM) has put the Al-Qaida senior leadership on the defensive -- and will be debilitating in the long term -- the Intelligence Community believes that KSM's capture will not necessarily affect operations that are ready or nearly ready for execution. There are many recent indications that Al-Qaida's planning includes the use of chemical, biological, and/or radiological materials.

Intelligence reporting also indicates that while Al-Qaida and those sympathetic to their cause are a principal threat, Iraqi state agents, Iraqi surrogate groups, other regional extremist organizations, and ad hoc groups or disgruntled individuals not connected to existing organizations or state agencies, may use this time period to conduct terrorist attacks against the U.S., or our interests abroad.

In recent months, there have been reports of suspicious activity in and around military facilities, ports, waterways, general infrastructure (bridges, dams, power generating facilities), and targets that are considered symbolic to U.S. power and influence. The discovery of ricin production in London raises the concern of the Intelligence Community that extremists are planning to follow through on longstanding threats of poison plots against U.S, British and Israeli interests -- and possibly other targets in Europe.

The Department of Homeland Security, in conjunction with numerous departments of the federal government has begun implementing increased protective measures under a comprehensive national plan to protect the Homeland: "Operation Liberty Shield." Operation Liberty Shield will increase security at our borders, strengthen transportation sector protections, enhance security at our critical infrastructure, increase public health preparedness and make sure all federal response assets can be deployed quickly.

Tonight, I have spoken to the nation's Governors and asked them to deploy the National Guard or additional police forces to improve security at critical locations throughout their states. Other state, local and private sector leaders are also being contacted to engage their support to increase the nation's security.

These heightened security measures will help deter terrorism and increase protection of America and Americans. In the meantime, as on the other occasions when the national threat level has been increased, we encourage members of the public to continue their daily work, family and leisure activities with a heightened awareness."

Recommended Actions:

The national threat level has been raised from "ELEVATED" (Yellow) to "HIGH" (Orange). This is based on specific intelligence received and analyzed by the full U.S. Intelligence Community.

Recipients are reminded to remain alert to the potential for such targeting. Information on suspicious activity possibly related to such targeting should be reported immediately to the nearest FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) or local FBI field office. State and local law enforcement are encouraged to discuss appropriate measures for their respective communities with their designated JTTF.

Modal authorities and infrastructure owners and operators are recommended to evaluate current security procedures and apply, as appropriate, protective measures that correspond to Threat Condition HIGH (Orange) under the Homeland Security Advisory System.

U.S. DOT reminds the transportation industry can report information concerning suspicious activity to their local FBI office through the FBI website <http://www.fbi.gov/contact/fo/fo.htm> or to the National Infrastructure Protection Center (NIPC) at its website <http://www.nipc.gov/incident/cirr.htm>.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

INCREASED SECURITY RISK NOTICE

March 14, 2003

Due to ongoing security threats to the country, please review the following core reminders for hazmat workers and companies. More specific recommendations regarding hazardous materials security practices, driver security measures and other security information are available at the website:

<http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/security>

HAZMAT COMPANIES

PREPARE

Review Emergency and Security plans with your employees.

ASSESS

Determine the need to implement any increased security measure from your Security Plan in times of heightened threats.

ACT

Cooperate and Communicate with Local, State, and Federal Officials.

Promptly dispatch Threat Warnings and security tips to drivers and employees.

HAZMAT DRIVERS & WORKERS

PREPARE

Review your company's Security and Emergency Plans.

Be prepared for emergencies, increased law enforcement, and possible highway delays or closures.

ASSESS

Be alert for unusual situations.

ACT

Report suspicious and threatening behavior.

THREAT CONDITION: ORANGE

For more details about Operation Liberty Shield, please visit the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Web site -- www.dhs.gov .

OPERATION LIBERTY SHIELD

Operation LIBERTY SHIELD is a comprehensive national plan designed to increase protections for America's citizens and infrastructure while maintaining the free flow of goods and people across our border with minimal disruption to our economy and way of life. Operation LIBERTY SHIELD is a multi-department, multi-agency, national team effort. It includes:

- Increased security at borders
- Stronger transportation protections
- Ongoing measures to disrupt threats against our nation
- Greater protections for critical infrastructure and key assets
- Increased public health preparedness
- Federal response resources positioned and ready

INCREASED SECURITY AT BORDERS

Maritime

More Patrols - Security has been increased at major U.S. ports and waterways with more Coast Guard patrols by aircraft, ships and boats.

More Escorts of Passenger Ships - The Coast Guard has increased its escorts of ferries and cruise ships.

More Sea Marshals - Every high interest vessel arriving or departing from American ports will have armed Coast Guard Sea Marshals onboard, closely watching the ship's crew and ensuring that it makes its port call safely. These merchant ships have cargoes, crewmember(s), or other characteristics that warrant closer examination.

Selective Maritime Restrictions - The Coast Guard will enforce security zones in and around critical infrastructure sites in key ports. This information will be published and announced for those using U.S. waterways.

Land Borders

Increasing Border Surveillance – Surveillance and monitoring of the borders will be increased with more agents and patrol assets. These forces will cover areas between major ports of entry.

Increased Border Screening – Customs and Border Protection officers will increase screenings of vehicles and cargo crossing our land borders. Officers will conduct more interviews and

detailed screenings as people transit in and out of the U.S. The actions at land borders are not expected to significantly impact the movement of people and cargo across the border.

Asylum Modifications

Asylum Detainees – Asylum applicants from nations where al-Qaeda, al-Qaeda sympathizers, and other terrorist groups are known to have operated will be detained for the duration of their processing period. This reasonable and prudent temporary action allows authorities to maintain contact with asylum seekers while we determine the validity of their claim. DHS and the Department of State will coordinate exceptions to this policy.

STRONGER TRANSPORTATION PROTECTIONS

Airports

Increasing Airport Security – The Transportation Security Agency will implement airport security measures that are proactive, sustainable, and focused, based on intelligence information. One of the most visible changes will be increasing the presence of law enforcement officers on patrol and in airport facilities.

Checking Airport IDs – TSA has advised air carriers to review and ensure the validity of all personnel ID's for those who have access to the secure areas. In addition, TSA screeners will continue to remain at a heightened state of alert.

Airspace Control

Controlling Vital Airspace – New temporary flight restrictions have been put into place over certain U. S. cities, including Washington D. C. and New York City. The FAA will continue to closely monitor air traffic in these and other key areas.

Enhancing Rail Security

Improving Rail Bridge Security – State governors have been asked to provide additional police or National Guard forces at selected bridges.

Increased Railroad Infrastructure Security - Railroad companies will be asked to increase security at major facilities and key rail hubs.

AMTRAK Security Measures - AMTRAK will implement security measures consistent with private rail companies.

Increasing Railroad Hazardous Material (HAZMAT) Safety – At the request of the Department of Transportation private railroad companies will monitor shipments of hazardous material and increase surveillance of trains carrying this material.

Enhancing Road Security

Government and Industry Teamwork - The Department of Transportation will work closely with hazardous material shippers and carriers and encourage them to follow transportation security checklists and recommendations. Suggested measures include employee identification checks,

communications plans, and emphasis on operator awareness. U. S. and Canadian authorities will also coordinate cross-border hazardous material shipments.

ONGOING MEASURES TO DISRUPT THREATS AGAINST OUR NATION

Monitoring Terrorist Suspects

Tracking Suspects - The FBI will continue to closely monitor individuals suspected of links to terrorism.

Identifying Terrorist Supporters - The FBI is working closely with the Departments of Justice and DHS to identify those that would facilitate terrorist activity through fundraising, logistical support and recruitment.

Foreign National Information. - In order to advise members of the Iraqi community of the FBI's responsibilities in protecting them from hate crimes, and to elicit information that may be useful to the U.S. Government in the event of hostilities in Iraq, the FBI, working with the Department of State and immigration officials, has identified a number of Iraqi-born individuals in the U.S. that may be invited to participate in voluntary interviews.

GREATER PROTECTIONS FOR CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND KEY ASSETS

Protecting Key Economic Centers and Ports

Vital Petro-chemical Facilities - The Coast Guard will provide maritime protection for petroleum centers located in close proximity to major coastal population centers.

Strengthening Nuclear Regulatory Safeguards

Facility Security - The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is requiring all licensed users of radioactive material to take additional security measures.

Protecting Key Infrastructure - The Federal government, state and local organizations and the private sector are increasing the security presence at chemical facilities, nuclear power sites, key electrical grids, bridges, subway systems, and other sites.

Cyber-Security

Monitoring and Vigilance – The Department of Homeland Security, together with other government agencies, continues to monitor the Internet for signs of a potential terrorist attack, cyber-terrorism, hacking, and state-sponsored information warfare. Industry and public Internet users are reminded of the importance of employing sound security practices and reporting unusual activity or intrusion attempts to DHS or local law enforcement.

INCREASED PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS

Increasing Disease Surveillance and Food Security

Alerting and Informing the Food Industry - The Department of Agriculture is alerting producer organizations of the increased threat status and urging them to implement additional security measures such as inspecting all vehicles and escorting all visitors to their facilities.

Department of Health and Human Services Outreach - HHS is alerting state and local health departments, hospitals, and medical care providers to report any unusual diseases or disease patterns. HHS has put the U. S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corp Readiness Force of doctors, nurses, and other health care staff on alert status and alerted emergency support and management teams to possible deployment.

Imported Food Monitoring. HHS has taken aggressive steps to enhance the inspection of imported food and is coordinating federal, state, and local communications on imported food issues and potential food pathogens.

USDA Monitoring of Food Chain - The Department of Agriculture is taking steps to assure that employees and representatives throughout the food and agriculture community are alerted and aware of the need for extra precautions during this time. USDA is encouraging state and private authorities to monitor feedlots, stockyards, import and storage areas.

FEDERAL RESPONSE RESOURCES POSITIONED AND READY

National Emergency Response Teams - DHS has pre-positioned National Emergency Response Teams (ERT-N) with one team designated for the National Capital Region. These teams are able to provide onsite management of federal response efforts.

Incident Teams - USDA Incident Management Teams (IRTs) from the U. S. Forest Service are ready to deploy to an emergency site to manage an incident with other DHS, federal, state, and local authorities.

DECON Teams Ready - EPA decontamination teams are on alert and ready to deploy.

In addition to the measures being taken in Operation LIBERTY SHIELD, members of the public are encouraged to become more informed about the emergency preparedness measures they can take to protect themselves and family members.

School Preparedness – On March 6, the Secretary of Education, Rod Paige, and Secretary Ridge announced a new web site that provides educators and school administrators with key emergency information to include in their own preparedness plans. The website includes information covering a variety of emergencies, including natural disasters, violent incidents, and terrorist acts. The website is: www.ed.gov/emergencyplan.

READY.GOV – The READY.GOV website and 1-800-Be-Ready line provide citizens with informative preparedness suggestions and advice for families.

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