

## TRANSPORTATION SECURITY INFORMATION REPORT

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

Number 03-05  
Expiration: None

Issued: May 20, 2003

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### **TSIR 03-05 (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 U.S. Intelligence Community believes that Al Qaida has entered an operational period worldwide, and this may include attacks in the United States.

In the wake of terrorist bombings in Saudi Arabia and Morocco, Al-Qaida and those sympathetic to their cause, are still a principal threat, but threats may also emanate from other anti-U.S. terrorist groups, regional extremist organizations, and ad hoc groups or disgruntled individuals not connected to existing terrorist organizations or state sponsors of terrorism. While there is not credible, specific information with respect to targets or method of attack, the use of tactics similar to those seen in recent terrorist attacks overseas include small arm equipped assault teams, large vehicle borne explosive devices, and suicide bombers. These attacks underscore terrorists' desires to attack soft targets. Weapons of mass destruction, including those containing chemical, biological or radiological agents or materials, cannot be discounted.

This afternoon, I have spoken to the nation's governors through their homeland security advisers and other state and local officials to relay the increased threat, and to ask them to review their own current security measures and deploy additional measures, particularly going into a holiday weekend where there will be many large public gatherings. Other state, local and private sector leaders are also being contacted to engage their support to increase the nation's security.

For all Americans, we recommend that you continue with your plans for work or leisure. However, your vigilance at large public events or other locations where crowds gather can help us disrupt terrorists' plans. If you see anything suspicious, do not hesitate to contact your local FBI office. A visible increase in security as well as the vigilance of homeland security professionals at all levels of government and the private sector and the general public can make a difference and prevent potential terrorist attacks."

### **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, the following protective measures that correspond to Threat Condition HIGH (Orange) under the Homeland Security Advisory System:

- Coordinating necessary security efforts with Armed Forces or law enforcement agencies;
- Taking additional precautions at public events;
- Preparing to work at an alternate site or with a dispersed workforce; and
- Restricting access to essential personnel only.

U.S. DOT reminds the transportation industry to 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>.