

## **excerpts from ALERTS AND ADVISORIES of the DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

### **from the Department of Homeland Security's online document**

#### **"Emergencies and Disasters: Planning and Prevention"**

"Terrorism is the use of force or violence against persons or property in violation of the criminal laws of the United States for purposes of intimidation, coercion or ransom. Terrorists often use threats to create fear among the public, to try to convince citizens that their government is powerless to prevent terrorism, and to get immediate publicity for their causes." (p. 1)

"Wherever you are, be aware of your surroundings. The very nature of terrorism suggests there may be little or no warning." (p.1)

"Do not be afraid to move or leave if you feel uncomfortable or if something does not seem right." (p 1)

"Terrorist use of a radiological dispersion device (RDD) – often called "dirty nuke" or "dirty bomb" – is considered far more likely than use of a nuclear device.... Such radiological weapons appeal to terrorists because they require very little technical knowledge to build and deploy compared to that of a nuclear device. Also, these radioactive materials, used widely in medicine, agriculture, industry and research, are much more readily available and easy to obtain compared to weapons grade uranium or plutonium." (p.6)

"Terrorist use of a nuclear device would probably be limited to a single smaller "suitcase" weapon. The strength of such a weapon would be in the range of the bombs used during World War II. " (p.6)

"There is no way of knowing how much warning time there would be before an attack by a terrorist using a nuclear or radiological weapon. A surprise attack remains a possibility." (p.6-7)

"Taking shelter during a nuclear attack is absolutely necessary." ...

- Shielding. The more heavy, dense materials – thick walls, concrete, bricks, books and earth – between you and the fallout particles, the better.

- Distance. The more distance between you and the fallout particles, the better....

- Time. ... In time, you will be able to leave the fallout shelter." (p.7)

"There is always a risk of a terrorist threat." (p. 10)

### **from the Department of Homeland Security's online Alert 03-025**

#### **TITLE: Homeland Security Advisory System Increase to National Level ORANGE May 20, 2003.**

##### **Surveillance Activities:**

"Few terrorist attacks are executed without pre-operational surveillance of the desired target." (p.1)

"Key activities suggesting possible terrorist surveillance is in progress may include:

- Foot surveillance involving 2-3 individuals working together.

- Mobile surveillance using bicycles, scooters, motorcycles, sport-utility vehicles, cars, trucks, boats or small aircraft.

- Persons or vehicles being seen in the same location on multiple occasions; persons sitting in a parked car for an extended period of time.

- Persons not fitting into the surrounding environment, such as wearing improper attire for the location, or persons drawing pictures or taking notes in an area not normally of interest to a tourist.

- Persons using possible ruses to cover their activities, such as taking on a disguise as a beggar, demonstrator, shoe shiner, fruit or food vendor, street sweeper, or a newspaper or flower vendor not previously recognized in the area." (p. 2)

**from the Department of Homeland Security's online Information Bulletin (Draft):  
Mass Mailing Malicious Code – Works and Viruses, June, 2003**

“This Bulletin is being disseminated for information purposes only. the Department of Homeland Security has noticed an increase in the use of mass mailing techniques to distribute malicious code. ... Several recent forms of malicious code... were propagated via e-mail.” (p. 1)

“There have been at least two variations on the mass mailing theme. ... The threat that is posed by the second scenario is significant.” (p. 1)

“Organizations can protect against future e-mail delivered malicious code by blocking all executable code at their e-mail gateway. There is almost no reason why organizations should allow users to run programs arriving from the outside world...” (p. 1)

“DHS encourages individuals to report information regarding suspicious or criminal activity to law enforcement or a Homeland Security watch office.” (P.2)

**from the Department of Homeland Security's online Information Bulletin:**

**TITLE: Potential Terrorist Use of Official Identification, Uniforms, or Vehicles, July 22, 2003**

“Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Information Bulletins are informational in nature and are designed to provide updates on the training, tactics, or strategies of terrorists. the following information is meant to advise the owners and operators of the nation's infrastructures about the possible use by terrorists of official identification, uniforms, or vehicles to gain access to sensitive facilities for purposes of planning or carrying out attacks. ... While DHS possesses no information indicating an organized effort by extremist elements in the United States to illegally obtain official identification, uniforms, or vehicles in furtherance of terrorist activities, it has identified the recent theft or disappearance of large numbers of these items. Attempts to acquire official identification, uniforms, or vehicles would be consistent with the tactics and techniques of Al-Qaeda and other extremist groups, according to a variety of reporting sources.” (p.1)

“In an effort to understand the extent of official identification, uniform and vehicle thefts, DHS recently conducted a survey of selected members of the law enforcement community in five states. This survey revealed that from February to May 2003 hundreds of official identification cards, badges, decals, uniforms, and government license plates were reported stolen or lost. Additionally, a number of private companies have reported receiving suspicious inquiries about renting official delivery vehicles and emergency services representatives have received unusual requests for detailed vehicle descriptions. There is no historical baseline to compare recent theft or suspicious inquiry data, and the intent or resolution of many of the thefts cannot be determined.” (p.1)