



## PHOTO PROCESSING, CAMERA AND VIDEO EQUIPMENT SALES

BusinessSafe is based on the idea that certain businesses and industries may be exploited by terrorists who portray themselves as honest customers seeking to purchase, lease or somehow appropriate certain materials, licenses and/or services to covertly further a terrorist plot.

The following are general indicators of potential terrorist planning or activities. Alone, each indicator can result from legitimate recreational or commercial activities or criminal activity not related to terrorism; however, multiple indicators combined with other information may possibly suggest a terrorist threat.

- Physical surveillance, which may include note taking or the use of binoculars, cameras or maps near key facilities.
- Attempts to gain sensitive information regarding key facilities or personnel through personal contact or by telephone, mail or e-mail.
- Attempts to penetrate or test physical security and response procedures at key facilities.
- Attempts to improperly acquire explosives, weapons, ammunition, dangerous chemicals, flight manuals or other materials which could be used in a terrorist attack.
- Suspicious or improper attempts to acquire official vehicles, uniforms, badges, access cards or identification for key facilities.
- Presence of individuals who do not appear to belong in the workplace, business establishment or near a key facility.
- Behavior which appears to denote planning for terrorist activity, such as mapping out routes, playing out scenarios, monitoring key facilities and timing traffic flow or signals.
- Stockpiling suspicious materials or abandoning potential containers for explosives (e.g., vehicles or suitcases).

The following examples of activity relating to Photo Processing, Camera and Video Equipment Sales, though not fully inclusive, may be of **possible** concern to law enforcement:

- Specific customer requests for the processing of film by machine only with a clear concern expressed by the customer that store employees or other persons refrain from viewing the resulting developed photographs.
- Efforts made by a customer to obtain the identity of all store employees who may have seen developed photographs.
- The development of film indicating various landmarks or sensitive locations or segments thereof, none of which appear to have any aesthetic value making them attractive to photograph (i.e., the under girding beams of a bridge, the complex of transformers of an

electrical plant, the arrangement of traffic signals and pedestrian areas, the amount and location of lighting, etc.).

- Purchase of expensive photography or video equipment with panoramic capability.
- Purchase of a video camera with “night vision” or infrared lighting equipment.
- Processing of film that repeatedly shows landmarks or sensitive locations from a variety of angles, offering a panoramic coverage of the object photographed. (Note: The Al Qaeda Training Manual, in the chapter called Espionage -- Information Gathering Using Covert Methods-- offers the following instruction in the surveillance of an intended target: “It is preferable to photograph the area as a whole first, then the street of the desired location. If possible, panoramic pictures should be taken. That is, the collection of views should be continuous in such a way that all pictures are taken from one location and that the ending of one picture is the beginning of the next...The photographer should use a modern camera that can photograph at night or from a distance, and only the lens of the camera should be visible.”)
- Unusual inquiries into Kite Aerial Photography, or KAP, which is an obscure hobby that could be used to conduct surveillance on embassies, government buildings, or other targets, without attracting suspicion. A recent issue of the magazine Popular Science provides step-by-step instructions for the construction of a low cost system that could be used as an unobtrusive surveillance platform. Using a \$60 digital camera and a \$1.50 microchip, available at any electronics hobby store, one can modify the camera to take a picture every second until the memory card is full. Kite Aerial Photography could be used in most high-density urban settings.

Your impressions and assessment based upon your professional business experience are extremely valuable and should help guide you in determining if a customer request, a fact pattern, or set of circumstances is unusual.

Please remember that the conduct of an individual will not necessarily be criminal in nature. Suspicious incidents should be reported immediately to your local law enforcement agency, Crime Stoppers, or your regional FDLE office. You may also email a tip regarding a suspicious incident utilizing the link on the [BusinessSafe homepage](#).

For all emergencies, call “911.”