DEFENSE INDUSTRY BASE

BusinesSafe 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 Defense Industry Base, though not fully inclusive, may be of possible concern to law enforcement, as well as this sector:

- Individuals acting nervous, jittery, uneasy, or vague, as well as, avoiding eye contact.
- Unusual inquiries regarding specific events scheduled for the base, anticipated patrons, or the purpose of an event.
- Individuals making observations of your operations who deliberately leave to avoid questioning when approached or give evasive responses to routine questions posed by staff.
- The apparent hesitation by an individual when asked for information such as name, address, signature, photo identification, etc.
- Individual(s) bringing or attempting to bring unusual packages on the premises.
- Suspicious behavior by an individual(s) attempting to access the base while wearing bulky clothing that appears inappropriate. May be compounded by the subject being alone or while acting excessively nervous and/or perspiring.
- Visitors found on the base who claim to be lost or appearing disoriented.
- Information that suggests an individual received foreign military training or attended a military training camp overseas.
- Overheard conversations in which individuals make unusual or alarming statements.
- Inordinate or unusual attention paid by a passenger to sensitive locations that do not typically generate attention (i.e., unusual questions about power plants, water treatment plants, etc.).
- Unusual questions or statements about security measures at, around, associated with, or linked to critical areas of the base.
- Individuals found in areas restricted to employees or performers only and not open to the general public.
- Individuals photographing or videotaping the building with an apparent focus on stairwell locations, hallways, fire exists, chain link fence, etc.
- A vehicle appearing unusually weighted down.
- A vehicle emitting a strong odor, such as a chemical or organic smell (i.e., vinegar like or a fertilizer smell).
- A liquid substance, not normally associated with a vehicle, observed leaking from the passenger compartment or the trunk.
- A vehicle observed containing metal cylinders, tanks, containers, or any unusual wiring.
- The registration or inspection sticker appearing altered or fraudulent. (Note: The Al Qaeda training manual states, “license plate number and county name should be falsified. Further, the digits should be numerous in order to prevent anyone from spotting and memorizing it.”)
- Deliveries that are not anticipated or requested.
- Unclaimed or suspicious packages or objects found on or near the base.
- Loss or theft of any entry keys or badges that could allow access to the base.
- Loss or theft of computer or electronic equipment pertaining to surveillance such as night-vision goggles, special use binoculars; items that may be utilized as bomb making components such as wirers, digital timers, electronic relays; encryption or steganography software (steganography by definition: is the production and placing in computer files of secret messages so small as to be detectable only by special software), or any other unusual software or equipment.
- An unusual request for building blueprints, similar documents, or schematics; or these items reported missing or stolen.
- Evidence suggesting that the building’s heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system (i.e., heating, ventilation, air conditioning access rooms or panels) may possibly have been tampered with.
- Maintenance work that is not announced or scheduled takes place.
• Individuals found loitering in areas where there is access to the HVAC system or other physical plant systems (air intake vents; electrical breaker switch boxes) related to building operations.

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.”