FLIGHT SCHOOLS

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 Flight Schools, though not fully inclusive, may be of possible concern to law enforcement:

- The name, address or any other personal information presented by a student on an application is believed to be fictitious. (For example, attempts by school officials to contact an individual using this information are unsuccessful.) Any attempt to obscure true identity of a student or parent.
- Facts relating to a student’s visa status are questionable.
- The sudden withdrawal of a student from your program without a reason.
- A student’s stated reason or apparent motivation for enrolling in the specific program is not typical of the usual class representation.
• Unusual behavior such as isolation or unusual non-participation by an individual toward fellow students in classroom discussions or activities.
• Information or evidence that suggests a student received paramilitary training overseas.
• A student’s interest in only certain areas of flying (i.e., not interested in landing.)
• Suspicious inquiries regarding the differences in flying certain types of aircraft (i.e., if learning to fly on a small plane yet ask suspicious questions regarding 737, 747, 777, etc.).
• Inquiries by individuals interested in buying used automotive or truck parts specifically and uniquely associated with official vehicles, such as emergency response vehicles like ambulances or police cars.
• Inquiries for an uncommon item or other material by someone who does not appear to be in the associated business.
• Subsequent finding or requests for the manufacture of hidden or “trapped” compartments within a vehicle.

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.”