



Transportation
Security
Administration



(U) Transportation Suspicious Incidents Report

5 August 2010



Warning: This document is UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (U//FOUO). It contains information that may be exempt from public release under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552). It is to be controlled, stored, handled, transmitted, distributed, and disposed of in accordance with DHS policy relating to FOUO information and is not to be released to the public, the media, or other personnel who do not have a valid "need-to-know" without prior approval of an authorized TSA official. No portion of this report should be furnished to the media, either in written or verbal form. This product contains U.S. Person (USPER) information that has been deemed necessary for the intended recipient to understand, assess, or act on the information provided. It has been highlighted in this document with the label USPER and should be handled in accordance with DHS intelligence oversight or information handling procedures. Other USPER information has been minimized. Should you require the minimized USPER information, please contact the TSA Office of Intelligence, Production Management Unit at TSA-OI_Production@tsa.dhs.gov.

Executive Summary

(U//FOUO) The Transportation Suspicious Incident Report (TSIR) provides a weekly comprehensive review of suspicious incident reporting related to transportation. The TSIR includes incident reporting, analyses, images, and graphics on specific incidents. In addition, selected articles focus on security technologies, terrorism, and the persistent challenges of securing the nation’s transportation modes. This product is derived from unclassified incident and law enforcement reporting and does not represent fully evaluated intelligence. Questions and comments may be addressed to the Transportation Security Administration, Office of Intelligence, Field Production Team at (703) 601-3142.

Sector Incidents and Trends

- (U) Summary of Suspicious Incidents.....2
- (U) Aviation Incidents.....2
 - (U) New York: Former Airline Employee Charged with Threatening to Reveal Safety Secrets
 - (U//FOUO) No-Fly Matches
- (U) Surface Incidents.....4
 - (U) People’s Republic of China: Passenger Deliberately Sets Fire to Airport Shuttle Bus

Transportation Highlights

- (U) Homeland Security.....5
 - (U) United States: Terror Suspect Posts U.S. Government Documents on Internet
 - (U) United States: Extremist Threatens More Attacks Against U.S. and the West

Incident Follow-Ups and Closures

- (U) Follow-Ups and Closures.....6
 - (U//FOUO) Michigan: Terminal Evacuated After Suspicious Item Discovered in Restroom
 - (U//FOUO) Maryland: Suspicious Item Causes Evacuation of Checked Baggage Screening Area

Technologies and Tactics

- (U) Suspicious Objects, Weapons, and Concealment Methods.....7
 - (U//FOUO) California: Prohibited Items Artfully Concealed in Toys
 - (U//FOUO) New York: Artful Concealment of Knives in Baby Seat and Walking Cane
 - (U//FOUO) New York: Artfully Concealed Knife Detected at Rochester
 - (U) The Intimidator – Metal Puzzle Becomes .45-Caliber Handgun

Appendix



Transportation Security Administration

Sector Incidents & Trends

(U) Summary of Suspicious Incidents

(U//FOUO) Field reporting continues to capture incidents or activities in transportation modes that may be construed as suspicious – as defined by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). For this reporting period, **21** incidents were considered suspicious.

(U//FOUO) The vast majority of suspicious incidents are not terrorism related. Incident reporting continues to reveal most involve members of the traveling public who do not have intent to cause harm. Intoxicated passengers, people traveling without proper identification or with propaganda materials, and persons with mental health needs are generally not considered suspicious and are generally not included in the weekly summary. However, some incidents are more serious and are reported for situational awareness. Incidents involving notable drug or weapons concealment, possible surveillance, laser targeting of aircraft, possible insider collusion, exploitable gaps in security, and some unusual behaviors at transportation venues are discussed as they may involve technologies or tactics which may lend insight to future terrorist tradecraft.

(U) Aviation Incidents



(U)

(U) File photo from Internet

(U) New York: Former Airline Employee Charged with Threatening to Reveal Safety Secrets. According to press reports, a disgruntled former flight attendant is facing federal charges for threatening to reveal in-flight safety procedures to Islamic groups. A criminal complaint unsealed in a Brooklyn Federal Court on 21 July states that the former flight attendant allegedly authored two anonymous letters sent to the airline’s corporate headquarters last year. In the letters, the former employee claimed he had sent information from the airline’s safety and security manual “to 25 Muslim charity organizations both here and in the United Kingdom.” He also claimed to have made “hundreds of copies” of the manual. The individual came under suspicion because he included threats in the letters against an employee whom he had previously attacked. The former flight attendant reportedly has a grudge against the airline stemming from his dismissal for throwing a coffee pot at a fellow flight attendant during a flight.



Transportation
Security
Administration

Sector Incidents & Trends

(U//FOUO) NO-FLY MATCHES: There was 1 match to the Terrorist Screening Center (TSC) No-Fly List during this reporting period.

(U//FOUO) On 21 July, TSA-OI received notification from an airline of a match to the TSC No-Fly List. The passenger was attempting to board an international flight (Toronto, Canada – Frankfurt, Germany) that would transit U.S. airspace. TSA-OI, in coordination with the TSC, confirmed the passenger to be a positive match to the TSC No-Fly List and the airline denied the passenger boarding. The TSC, in coordination with the nominating agency, determined that the subject would remain on the TSC No-Fly List.



Transportation
Security
Administration

Sector Incidents & Trends

(U) Surface Incidents



(U)

(U) File photo from Internet

(U) People's Republic of China: Passenger Deliberately Sets Fire to Airport Shuttle Bus. On 21 July, at least 2 people were killed and over 10 injured when an airport shuttle bus in Changsha, China caught fire—reportedly after an unidentified passenger deliberately ignited a bag containing combustible material. The bus caught fire near an expressway toll gate as it departed the Changsha Huanghua International Airport.

(U//FOUO) TSA Office of Intelligence Comment: *Individuals intentionally setting fires on Chinese passenger buses using gasoline or other accelerants are not uncommon. At least two incidents have been reported in the past year.*

(U) *In March 2008, a passenger on a China Southern Airlines flight was reportedly confronted by the crew who discovered her in a lavatory with two gasoline-filled soft drink cans she smuggled on board the flight. She apparently intended to ignite the fuel while in the lavatory, which was located near the wing of the Boeing 757.*



Transportation
Security
Administration

Transportation Highlights

(U) Homeland Security

(U) United States: Terror Suspect Posts U.S. Government Documents on Internet. According to press reports, a U.S. Person (USPER) reportedly posted on the Internet, the U.S. Army Ranger Handbook, which includes instructions on using explosives, and a TSA manual on airport screening, which the FBI believes was meant to help terrorists target U.S. airlines. The USPER, who allegedly had been exchanging e-mails with a U.S.-born Yemeni cleric, described himself to an FBI agent as one of the most influential members "in the Jihadi community" in the Washington area. He also stated that he believed his online posting, "Open Source Jihad," which described the use of the Internet to support operatives, inspired the use of that same term in an al-Qa'ida publication. The USPER also reportedly posted an article recommending the planting of "fake" suspicious packages to desensitize law enforcement. "A cop might walk up to a bag that someone thought might be a bomb, so he assumes it is not. Then he bends over to open it, rolling his eyes at this waste of his time. Boom! No more kafir," (non-Muslim), the USPER allegedly wrote. The USPER was arrested on 21 July and has been charged with providing material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization—Al-Shabaab.

(U) United States: Extremist Threatens More Attacks Against U.S. and the West. Al-Qa'ida's second-in-command has reportedly threatened more attacks against the United States and Western interests in a 47-minute audio message posted on jihadist websites on 27 July. "Oh American people...We offered you a peace plan, and mutual benefit; but your governments were proud and haughty, and so the attacks against you followed one after another, everywhere – from Indonesia to Times Square, by way of Madrid and London. And the attacks are ongoing, and more will come one after another," he stated, according to a transcript provided by the Middle East Media Research Institute, based in Washington, D.C. The extremist also reiterated his promise of near victory in Iraq and Afghanistan, among other issues.



Transportation
Security
Administration

Incident Follow-Ups & Closures

(U) Follow-Ups and Closures



(U//FOUO)

(U//FOUO) Suspicious package

(U//FOUO) Michigan: Terminal Evacuated After Suspicious Item Discovered in Restroom.

On 27 July, a TSA Supervisory Transportation Security Officer (STSO) conducting a routine security sweep, discovered a box wrapped in duct tape beneath a lavatory sink located in a restroom on the public side of Kincheloe Airport. Local Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) responded, evacuated the sterile area, contacted the bomb squad, and set up a 300-foot perimeter.

(U//FOUO) Follow-up: After consultation with the bomb squad and a TSA Bomb Appraisal Officer (BAO), a local LEO opened the package. It reportedly contained narcotics, cigarettes, and other contraband. A subsequent security sweep of the airport was conducted with negative results. The STSO who discovered the package reported the floors in the restroom had just been cleaned and were still wet. It was also noted that Kincheloe Airport uses inmates from a local prison for certain maintenance tasks (NFI). Several

persons of interest have been identified and an investigation continues into what appears to be a criminal smuggling operation.

(U//FOUO) Maryland: Suspicious Item Causes Evacuation of Checked Baggage Screening Area. On 22 July, TSA Transportation Security Officers (TSOs) at Baltimore-Washington International Airport (BWI) detected a suspected pipe bomb in the checked bag of an identified passenger (Baltimore-Detroit). The screening area was immediately evacuated.

(U//FOUO) Closure: TSA BAOs subsequently cleared the item. An interview of the passenger revealed that he was a physicist and the suspect items were part of two Geiger counters he used in his profession of nuclear medicine.



(U//FOUO)



(U//FOUO)

(U//FOUO) Images of suspect device at BWI



Transportation
Security
Administration

Technologies & Tactics

(U) Suspicious Objects, Weapons, & Concealment Methods



(U//FOUO) Artfully concealed knives encountered at SAN

(U//FOUO) California: Prohibited Items Artfully Concealed in Toys. On 22 July, TSA TSOs at San Diego International Airport (SAN) detected a box cutter and two pocket knives artfully concealed inside a toy stuffed animal. Two additional pocket knives were found inside a deck of cards. The prohibited items were discovered in the carry-on bag of a minor passenger (San Diego-Nashville) who was traveling with her father. Local LEOs confiscated the items and interviewed the father who stated that his daughter had concealed the items on her own. The passengers were allowed to continue on the flight.

(U//FOUO) TSA Office of Intelligence Comment: *There have been several incidents since at least 2003 where TSOs detected weapons that had been artfully concealed inside stuffed animals. This tactic has also been successfully used by drug smugglers, and in at least one instance, by a terrorist. In 1995, dolls and toy cars filled with explosive materials were found in the residence of a terrorist who was later convicted for his roles in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing and a subsequent plan to bomb U.S. airliners transiting the Far East (Manila Plot).*

(U//FOUO) Note: *See also TSA Office of Intelligence TIG: Concealment of Explosive Devices in Toys, Other Items (December 2007); and EPIC Transportation Unit Bulletin (EB07-51 / October 2007): Toys Used to Smuggle Drugs.*

(U//FOUO) New York: Artful Concealment of Knives in Baby Seat and Walking Cane. On 27 July, TSOs at LaGuardia International Airport (LGA) detected two knives that had been artfully concealed in the lining of the infant car seat of an identified passenger (New York LaGuardia-Fort Lauderdale). Another knife was found in the walking cane of her traveling companion. Local LEOs interviewed the passengers who stated that the knives belonged to a relative who had just passed away and they were aware of the items. Both passengers were cited on a state charge: *“Possession of a Knife over Four Inches.”*

(U//FOUO) TSA Office of Intelligence Comment: *Terrorists might employ similar tactics, techniques, or procedures (TTP – e.g., travel with an infant car seat, stroller, diaper bag, and children) as a means to smuggle an explosive device or weapon aboard a passenger aircraft. In the 1980s, a member of the 15 May Organization and his wife were known to travel with their child, possibly as a way to draw less attention during security screenings and inspections. In August 1982, the family boarded a flight from Baghdad to Tokyo (Pan Am 830). The extremist placed an improvised explosive device under a seat cushion, and once on the ground in Tokyo, he and his family got off the plane, which continued to Honolulu. The resulting in-flight explosion killed one passenger and injured 14 others.*

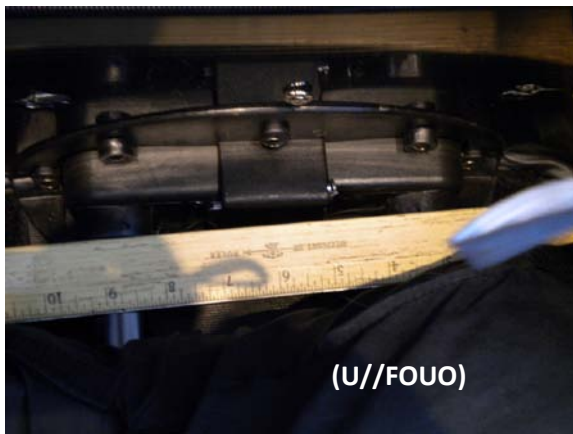


Transportation
Security
Administration

Technologies & Tactics

(U) More recently, in July 2010, an identified U.S. Person (USPER) reportedly attempted to board a flight to Uganda with his infant son in an attempt to mask his intent to join terrorist group al-Shabaab in Somalia, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office. The USPER had previously told his wife that he was taking their son to Uganda as part of his 'cover.'

(U//FOUO) New York: Artfully Concealed Knife Detected at Rochester. On 26 July, TSOs at Rochester International Airport (ROC) detected a knife with a 3-inch blade that had been concealed in a passenger's carry-on bag. The knife was located behind a metal plate where the handle meets the bag. Local LEOs interviewed the passenger who stated that he concealed the knife three years ago in an attempt to deceive screeners, and had since forgotten it was there. The knife was confiscated and the passenger was allowed to re-book.



(U//FOUO) Knife detected at ROC

(U//FOUO) TSA Office of Intelligence Comment: Passenger attempts to 'test' the system have been noted since at least 2003.

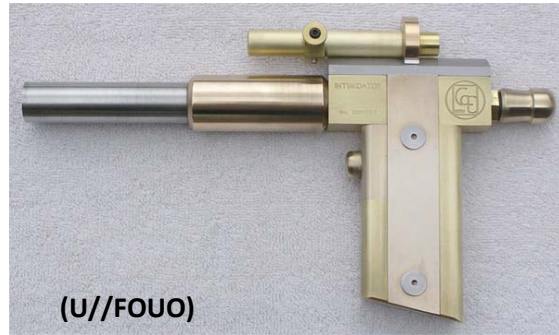
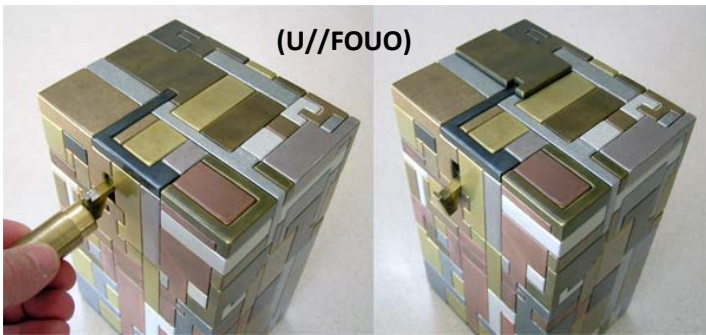
- **(U//FOUO) July 2007:** A knife was detected inside a jewelry box that had been placed inside a camcorder bag, which itself was inside the duffle bag of an identified passenger. The passenger claimed he carries the knife every time he flies to "test the system and see what terrorists might be able to get away with."
- **(U//FOUO) September 2005:** A knife was detected between two pieces of cardboard, which were lined and taped with coins. The passenger stated "You found it" and admitted that he was "testing the system" and thought TSA would just confiscate the knife.
- **(U//FOUO) February – September 2003:** In an e-mail to TSA, a passenger stated that he had smuggled prohibited items aboard airline flights in his carry-on bag and had hidden some of them in the lavatory. The items included box cutters, blades, a knife, matches, bleach, and molding clay, which he used as a simulated plastic explosive.



Transportation
Security
Administration

Technologies & Tactics

(U) The Intimidator – Metal Puzzle Becomes .45-caliber Handgun. A 125-piece puzzle made with differently shaped blocks assembled from different kinds of metal can be turned into a .45 caliber handgun with the aid of a special key. About 20 of its original pieces can be re-assembled to create the weapon.



(U//FOUO) TSA Office of Intelligence Comment: The block puzzle that contains the metal parts for this weapon weighs about 40 pounds. Estimated time to complete the puzzle – disassemble the metal block, then reassemble it into a functional weapon – is approximately 30-45 minutes. The puzzle’s estimated cost is between \$18 and 20,000 USD. While it is possible TSOs may encounter this item at airports or other transportation venues, the size, composition, weight, and complexity of it make it an unlikely weapon of choice for terrorists or criminal elements.

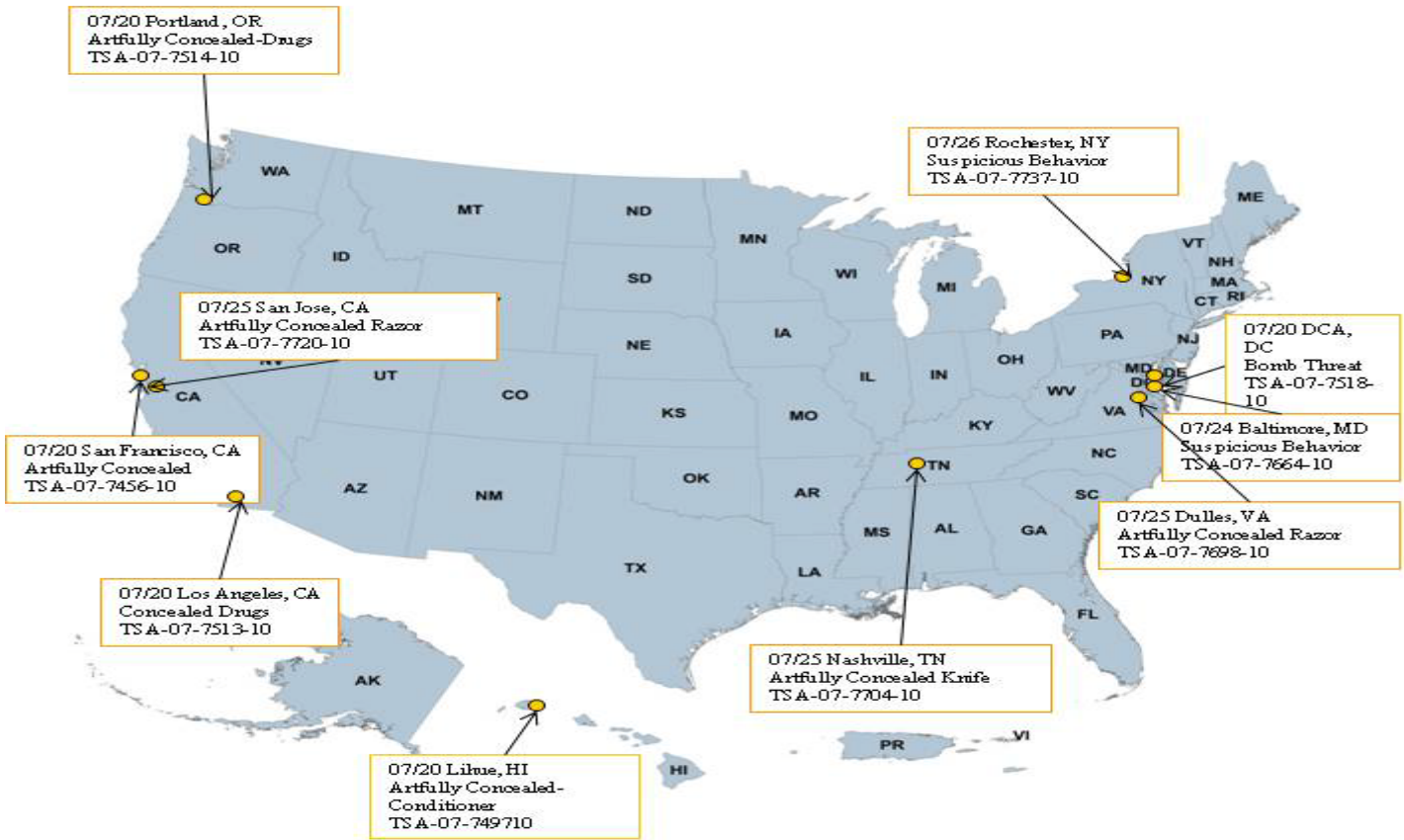
Tracked by: HSEC-02-03001-ST-2009; HSEC-02-03003-ST-2009; HSEC-01-00000-ST-2009; HSEC-01-02000-ST-2009



Transportation
Security
Administration

Appendix

(U) Aviation Incidents 21 July – 27 July 2010



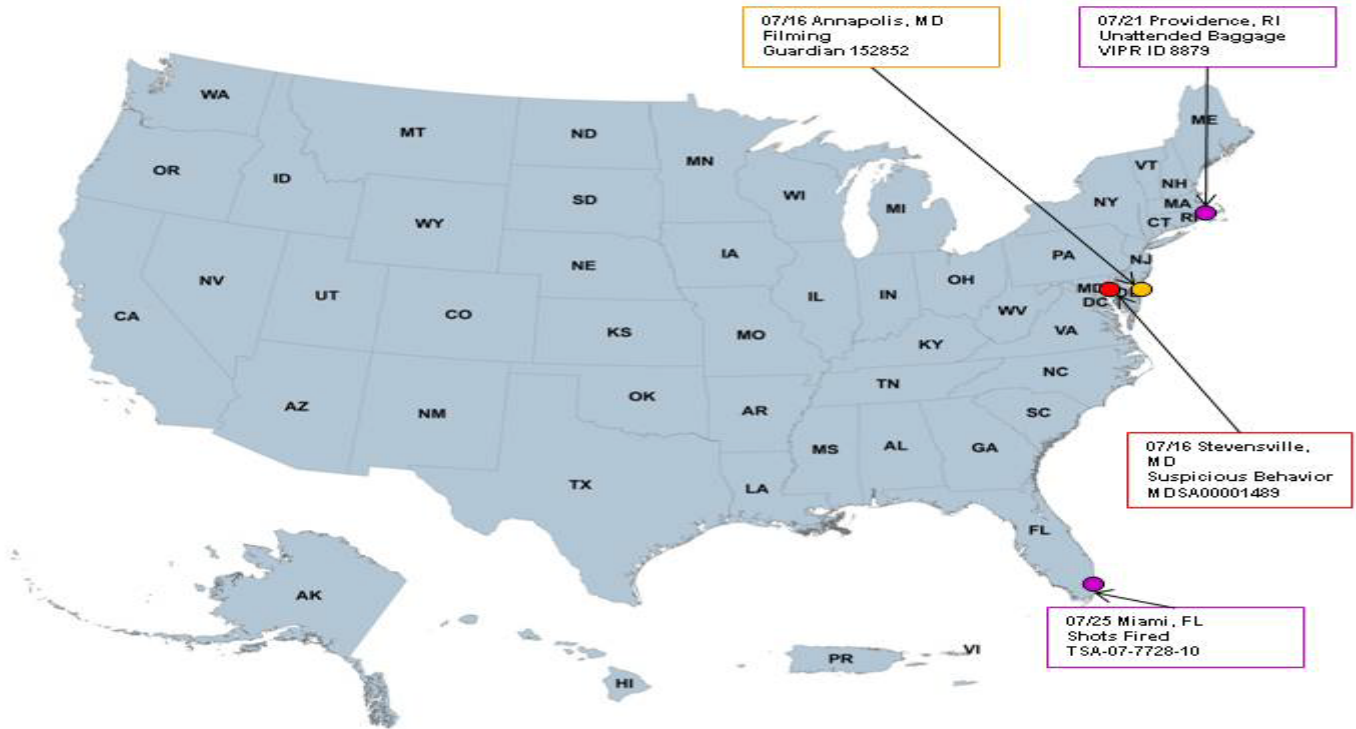
(U//FOUO) For additional information about any of the above reference incidents, please contact your regional Field Intelligence Officer.



Transportation Security Administration

Appendix

(U) Surface Incidents 21 – 27 July 2010



(U//FOUO) For additional information about any of the above reference incidents, please contact your regional Field Intelligence Officer.



Transportation
Security
Administration

Appendix

Suspicious Incident Reports Selection Standards	
Extracted from: DHS Information Sharing Environment (ISE), Functional Standard (FS), Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR), version 1.5 (ISE-FS-200), Part B – ISE-SAR Criteria Guidance	
CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
DEFINED CRIMINAL ACTIVITY AND POTENTIAL TERRORISM NEXUS ACTIVITY	
Breach/Attempted Intrusion	Unauthorized personnel attempting to or actually entering a restricted area or protected site. Impersonation of authorized personnel (e.g., police/security, janitor).
Misrepresentation	Presenting false or misusing insignia, documents, and/or identification, to misrepresent one's affiliation to cover possible illicit activity.
Theft/Loss/Diversion	Stealing or diverting something associated with a facility/infrastructure (e.g., badges, uniforms, identification, emergency vehicles, technology or documents {classified or unclassified}, which are proprietary to the facility).
Sabotage/Tampering/Vandalism	Damaging, manipulating, or defacing part of a facility/infrastructure or protected site.
Cyber Attack	Compromising, or attempting to compromise or disrupt an organization's information technology infrastructure.
Expressed or Implied Threat	Communicating a spoken or written threat to damage or compromise a facility/infrastructure.
Aviation Activity	Operation of an aircraft in a manner that reasonably may be interpreted as suspicious, or posing a threat to people or property. Such operation may or may not be a violation of Federal Aviation Regulations.
POTENTIAL CRIMINAL OR NON-CRIMINAL ACTIVITY REQUIRING ADDITIONAL FACT INFORMATION DURING INVESTIGATION	
Eliciting Information	Questioning individuals at a level beyond mere curiosity about particular facets of a facility's or building's purpose, operations, security procedures, etc., that would arouse suspicion in a reasonable person.
Testing or Probing of Security	Deliberate interactions with, or challenges to, installations, personnel, or systems that reveal physical, personnel or cyber security capabilities.
Photography	Taking pictures or video of facilities, buildings, or infrastructure in a manner that would arouse suspicion in a reasonable person. Examples include taking pictures or video of infrequently used access points, personnel performing security functions (patrols, badge/vehicle checking), security-related equipment (perimeter fencing, security cameras), etc.
Observation/Surveillance	Demonstrating unusual interest in facilities, buildings, or infrastructure beyond mere casual or professional (e.g., engineers) interest such that a reasonable person would consider the activity suspicious. Examples include observation through binoculars, taking notes, attempting to measure distances, etc.
Materials Acquisition/Storage	Acquisition and/or storage of unusual quantities of materials such as cell phones, pagers, fuel, chemicals, toxic materials, and timers, such that a reasonable person would suspect possible criminal activity.
Acquisition of Expertise	Attempts to obtain or conduct training in security concepts; military weapons or tactics; or other unusual capabilities that would arouse suspicion in a reasonable person.
Weapons Discovery	Discovery of unusual amounts of weapons or explosives that would arouse suspicion in a reasonable person.
Sector-Specific Incident	Actions associated with a characteristic of unique concern to specific sectors (such as the public health sector), with regard to their personnel, facilities, systems, or functions.



Transportation Security Administration