



# ROLL CALL RELEASE

In Collaboration with the ITACG



31 October 2010

## (U//FOUO) Potential for Exploitation of Postal and Commercial Shipping Companies

(U//FOUO) Terrorists remain interested in exploiting postal and commercial shipping companies to conduct or support attacks in the United States. Publicity surrounding the more than 40,000 incidents involving unknown or suspicious substances related to the U.S. Mail since 2001 likely reinforces violent extremists' belief that the postal sector is a useful mechanism for conducting an attack, as it demonstrates that mail containing potentially harmful substances can be delivered without arousing suspicion or being discovered until the recipient opens the letter or package.

(U//FOUO) Packages and envelopes containing suspicious substances may have characteristics that can alert handlers or recipients to the potential danger. Knowledge of the following indicators is recommended for all mail facility personnel and first responders who may come in contact with suspicious letters and packages:

(U) USPS.com

- No return address
- Restrictive markings



- Possibly mailed from a foreign country
- Excessive postage
- Misspelled words
- Address to title only
- Badly typed or written

- Lopsided or uneven

- Strange odor

- Rigid or bulky

- Oily stains, discolorations, crystallization on wrapper

- Excessive tape or string

### (U) Recommended steps for handling suspicious packages and envelopes include the following:

- (U) Do not open. Do not shake or empty the contents. If opened, do not allow unqualified or unauthorized individuals to examine the item.
- (U) Alert others in the area, close any doors, and take actions to prevent others from entering the area. If possible, shut off the ventilation system.
- (U) At work, notify a supervisor, security officer, or law enforcement official; if at home, contact the local law enforcement agency.

(U//FOUO) For additional information please see DHS Homeland Security Note: (U//FOUO) Violent Extremists Suggest Tactics to Defeat Postal Sector Procedures, 23 September 2010

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(U) Prepared by the DHS/I&A Homeland Counterterrorism Division, the FBI/Directorate of Intelligence, the Interagency Threat Assessment and Coordination Group and the National Counterterrorism Center. This product is intended to assist federal, state, local, and private sector first responders in developing deterrence, prevention, preemption, or response strategies.

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# Homeland Security

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If so, which partners?
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Notice to DHS I&amp;A Customers

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