

# CROSSFIRE



## PUBLIC SAFETY & HEALTH FIELD INTELLIGENCE REPORT

CrossFIRE is a partnership between the New York State Intelligence Center (NYSIC), the New York Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES), and the Department of Health-Bureau of EMS.

We welcome contributions that are relevant to First Responders from the Fire, EMS, Health, HAZMAT, and Law Enforcement communities.

Questions, comments, or submissions? Contact the New York State Intelligence Center (NYSIC) at [Cross-FIRE@nysic.ny.gov](mailto:Cross-FIRE@nysic.ny.gov). For immediate 24/7 assistance, you can reach the NYSIC at [1-866-48NYSIC](tel:1-866-48NYSIC), or [CIU@nysic.ny.gov](mailto:CIU@nysic.ny.gov).

**UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (U//FOUO)**

(Not for public or media release. This document is for official use only. Limit dissemination to law enforcement, firefighting, emergency medical, health, security, hazardous materials, antiterrorism, and intelligence personnel, and designated local, state, federal, tribal and military officials with a need to know.)

# CROSSFIRE

## Responder Note:

Safety is the responsibility of every first responder. Threats on the emergency scene can be directly related to the incident or come from an unanticipated source. Below are three items that first responders should be aware of as they perform their duties. Whether homemade or purchased legally, some of the most innocuous and ordinary items can be used to harm you. Be alert, be careful and be safe. Three examples of unusual weapons are discussed below.

### TATP Pen-bomb

Two teenage brothers in Charlotte, North Carolina were arrested this week after an improvised explosive device built into a pen exploded in the hands of a fellow student. The "pen bomb" had been filled with triacetone triperoxide (TATP), known by its street name, Mother of Satan. In a subsequent search of the brothers' home, authorities found a "significant quantity" of the powerful and unstable explosive, as well as materials that could be used to make more explosives. The neighborhood was evacuated as bomb squads conducted controlled detonations of the remaining material.

Analyst note: At the initial response to the boys' home, three hazmat firefighters suffered minor injuries when the substance they were testing exploded. Instruction on the construction of pen bombs has become wide spread on the video site You Tube. TATP is made from concentrated hydrogen peroxide and a strong acid, compounds readily available at home improvement stores and other retail locations. It is also a favorite among terrorists and would-be terrorists. TATP was used by Richard Reid "the Shoe Bomber" and Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab "the Christmas Day Bomber," and is suspected to be the material of choice in the 2005 London subway attacks and by Najibullah Zazi in his plot to attack New York City subways in 2009.

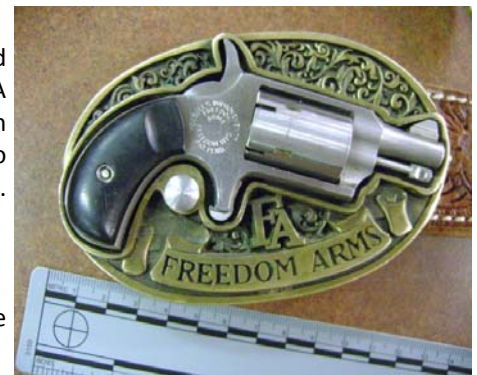
### Knife-Cross Keychain

Pursuant to a traffic stop in Clarkstown, Rockland County, State Police arrested an individual for Criminal Possession of Marihuana 4th, and a second individual for Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th. While conducting a search of the vehicle and the occupants, a keychain was found that contained a cross that contained a knife.



### Belt-Buckle Weapon

Pursuant to a traffic stop in Queensbury, Warren County, State Police noticed a strong odor of marihuana, and asked the occupants to exit the vehicle. A passenger in the car was observed wearing what appeared to be a handgun concealed in his belt buckle. Upon closer inspection, the buckle was found to contain a fully functional .22 caliber Freedom Arms black powder handgun. The subject was arrested for felony possession of a weapon.



First responders are reminded that weapons are easily concealed in a wide variety of ways, and should be alert to their presence.

# CROSSFIRE



## Washington Regional Threat and Analysis Center

2720 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20032  
 wrtac@dc.gov  
 202-481-3007  
 202-563-2768 (Fax)



|   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| <b>TITLE</b><br>Metro Bomb Plot Arrest and Request for Vigilance in SAR Reporting | <b>SERIES NUMBER</b><br>2010-298 |
| <b>October 28, 2010</b>   | <b>All WRTAC Partners</b>        |

On October 27, 2010, federal authorities arrested 34-year-old Farooque Ahmed of Ashburn, Virginia, for plotting a series of bomb attacks on the Metro subway system with people he believed to be members of al-Qaeda. Ahmed performed preoperational surveillance involving videotaping and diagramming of the Arlington Cemetery, Court House, Pentagon City and Crystal City Metro stations. Based on his surveillance, Ahmed determined the most advantageous time to attack the stations was between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., when they were the most crowded.



Source: Washington Post/Express, October 25, 2010

On October 11, 2010, al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula published the second edition of Inspire Magazine, which is designed to encourage homegrown terror attacks. With the threat of homegrown attacks increasing, the **WRTAC is asking all private and government sector SAR partners to increase their vigilance and report all suspicious activities and behaviors, no matter how insignificant it may seem at the time.**

Terrorist attacks often require meticulous planning and preparation. Therefore preoperational surveillance, such as was performed by Ahmed in preparing for attacks on Metro Stations, provides all citizens an opportunity to observe, report, and avert a potential terrorist or criminal incident. Alert citizens are recognizing and reporting suspicious activities every week in the National Capital Region. **The following Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) involving possible preoperational surveillance were recently reported to police:**

**9/7/10:** A complainant observed a cab driver videotaping a train station. The driver drove around the station three times, and alternated between filming the station and resuming his driving when anyone came by his location.

Page 1 of 2

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

**DISTRIBUTION:** This document is provided for your information and use. It is intended for security personnel, authorized officers and intelligence personnel. Further dissemination should be limited to a minimum, consistent with the purpose of supporting office security of installation personnel equipment and facilities. This document shall not be furnished to the media or any other agency without WRTAC approval. It contains information that may be exempt from public release under the Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552).

# CROSSFIRE

**10/3/10:** Suspicious individuals were observed videotaping and photographing in a coordinated manner in the area of key federal and local government buildings. Upon contact, police observed sketches, reviewed the media and noted that the subjects were recording infrastructure, and not typical tourist interests.

**10/5/10:** A complainant observed a subject taking photographs of train station infrastructure and then talking into the camera.

**(U) Potential Indicators of Observation**

**(U) Showing interest in features such as security equipment, personnel, or checkpoints.**

**(U) Drawing diagrams or taking notes on:**

- (U) Building plans
- (U) Security shift changes
- (U) Security weak points
- (U) Traffic flow
- (U) Location of security personnel

**(U) Taking measurements:**

- (U) Distances between key security points or from potential operating locations
- (U) Facility perimeters
- (U) Distances between cameras
- (U) Distances between security locations

**(U) Viewing facility from remote or obscure location.**

**(U) Using binoculars to view facility or infrastructure components.**

**(U) Collecting or possessing large amounts of materials related to buildings being observed, to include blueprints, floor plans, delivery points, or security checkpoints.**

*Source: DHS Preoperational Surveillance: Observation Bulletin, 23 April 2010*



**About the WRTAC:** The Washington Regional Threat & Analysis Center is the District of Columbia's fusion center. The WRTAC was formed in 2007 in order to facilitate prevention, response, and mitigation to criminal and terrorist activities, as well as man-made and/or natural disasters by collecting, analyzing, and disseminating diverse intelligence information and intelligence products.

The WRTAC supports multidisciplinary, proactive, risk-based, and community-focused problem solving. The WRTAC provides a continuous flow of information and intelligence to officials to assist in developing an awareness of evolving threats and mitigation strategies.

Page 2 of 2  
UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

**DISTRIBUTION:** This document is provided for your information and use. It is intended for security personnel, authorized officers, and intelligence personnel. Further dissemination should be limited to a minimum, consistent with the purpose of supporting effective security of installation personnel, equipment and facilities. This document shall not be furnished to the media or any other agencies without WRTAC approval. It contains information that may be exempt from public release under the Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552).

# CROSSFIRE

Counter-terrorism authorities have identified indicators that are often associated with terrorist pre-planning activities. These signs are broken down into 7 major categories.

In each *CrossFIRE*, we'll review a significant indicator that could signal suspicious behavior. With thousands of dedicated public servants statewide, educating New York's first responders about the warning signs of terrorist and criminal activity can prevent future attacks.

## **Surveillance**

Recording or monitoring activities, taking pictures, making drawings.

## **Elicitation**

Attempts to gain information about operations, staffing, and security.

## **Tests of Security**

Any attempts to measure reaction times to entering restricted areas.

## **Acquiring Supplies**

Obtaining explosives, weapons, uniforms, badges, credentials, etc.

## **Suspicious Persons Out of Place**

This may include people who are in places they should not be, as well as people who do not fit in to the daily routine of your community.

## **Dry or Trial Run**

Putting people into position and moving them around without actually committing a terrorist act.



## **Deploying Assets**

**People and supplies getting into position to commit the act.**

## **Funding**

Suspicious transactions involving large amounts of cash, and criminal activity.

### **Indicator #7: Deploying assets**

This step signals the end of the planning process and the beginning of the operational portion of the plot. The terrorist (s) will begin to place people and equipment into position in preparation of the attack. This is the last chance to interrupt the plot based on recognition of the previous steps. Assets may remain in place for an extended period of time. Be aware of indicators of suspicious activity, such as suspicious vehicles or the presence of individuals who do not appear to belong in an area.

# CROSSFIRE

Public Safety & Health Field Intelligence Report



## SAFEGUARD NEW YORK

Information sharing and situational awareness are integral components to secure our country, our state, and our community. With that in mind, you should be aware of a program designed not just for firefighters or pre-hospital care providers, but for all New Yorkers.

**SAFEGUARD NEW YORK** is an important program, partnering community members, businesses and emergency service professionals. We work together to alert state and local law enforcement to suspicious activities and potential acts of terrorism. You are our eyes and ears on the ground, on the streets, going to grocery stores, in the mall; you can help us fulfill our public safety responsibilities.

**Early** recognition and reporting of potential terrorist activity can serve as the first line of defense against those who commit acts of terrorism. If you witness anything suspicious, contact your local law enforcement; or the New York State Terrorism Tips line at 1-866-SAFE-NYS (1-866-723-3697).

**" IF YOU SEE SOMETHING,  
SAY SOMETHING! "**

**Report Any Suspicious Activity to  
the New York State Terrorism Tips Hotline:**

**1-866-SAFE-NYS**

**1-866-723-3697**

(ACROSS NEW YORK STATE)

**1-888-NYC-SAFE**

**1-888-692-7233**

(IN NEW YORK CITY)

**UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (U//FOUO)**

(Not for public or media release. This document is for official use only. Limit dissemination to law enforcement, firefighting, emergency medical, health, security, hazardous materials, antiterrorism, and intelligence personnel, and designated local, state, federal, tribal and military officials with a need to know.)