



TERRORIST ATTACKS  
ARE PRECEDED BY



# indicators & warnings



It is vitally important that we work together to confront the threat of terrorism. Please read the information presented in this brochure carefully and share it with your co-workers. Should you see any activity that resembles the indicators and warnings discussed herein, don't hesitate to call your local FBI office or local authorities at the number provided below. All information provided is thoroughly assessed, and there is no indicator or warning that is considered unworthy of our attention.

Make no mistake about it - there are individuals residing inside the United States, intent on carrying out terrorist attacks.

STAY ALERT.

For tips and leads contact the  
SACRTAC/CCIC at 1-888-884-8383/916-808-8383  
or go to [www.sacrtac.org](http://www.sacrtac.org)



Terrorist attacks typically involve meticulous planning and preparation by perpetrators who must conduct their activity in secret. Although terrorists go to great lengths to remain undetected, most terrorist attacks are preceded by specific indicators and warnings that, if detected, can lead to the disruption of the attack. This has been demonstrated in numerous instances.

Whether we work in public safety or in the private sector, we share the responsibility to recognize terrorism indicators and warnings and report them immediately to the proper authorities. This brochure was designed to highlight common indicators and warnings that may be indicative of terrorist activity. It is intended to be used by the public safety and private sector personnel who perform the following functions: interact with business groups and the public; respond to emergencies; protect or work at critical infrastructure or critical asset locations; investigate complaints on behalf of a government agency; or that conduct criminal investigations.

# stay alert

REPORT ALL SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY  
TO THE SACRAMENTO RTAC/CCIC

For tips and leads contact the  
SAC RTAC/CCIC at 1-888-884-8383/916-808-8383  
[www.sacrtac.org](http://www.sacrtac.org)



## Suspicious Behavior

Some of these activities in and of themselves may be cause for concern, whereas others may be suspicious when encountered in combination.

### UNUSUAL ITEMS IN VEHICLE/RESIDENCE

Training manuals/certificates: flight schools, scuba, explosives or military

Blueprints, photographs, diagrams or security logs

Numerous pre-paid calling cards and/or cell phones

GPS tracking devices

Tanks, barrels, tubes, or other unusual containers

Financial records indicating overseas transactions

Extremist posters, fliers, or underground publications

Unusual chemicals, compounds, or components

Driving a rental vehicle, but lives locally, or conflicting story as to purpose of visit

### IDENTIFICATION - SUSPICIOUS CHARACTERISTICS

Multiple, fraudulent or altered IDs, or varied name spellings

No current or fixed address

Use of an international driver's permit or other questionable source of ID

### PASSPORT HISTORY

Recent travel overseas to countries that sponsor terrorism

Multiple passports with different countries/names (caution: individuals may have dual citizenship)

Altered numbers, photo substitutions, removed pages, or erasures

Replacement passports for lost or stolen originals



### EMPLOYMENT, SCHOOL/TRAINING

No obvious signs of employment

Has student visa, but does not attend school, or is not English proficient

Interest in military/tactical training, weapons, or self-defense

### HOTEL/MOTEL VISITS

Unusual activity:

Refusal of maid service

Seeking a specific view of a sensitive location

Surveillance equipment in room

Use of lobby or pay phone instead of room phone

### THEFTS, PURCHASES OR DISCOVERY OF:

Weapons/explosives materials or components

Camera/surveillance equipment and night vision equipment

Two-way radios with no rational explanation

Unauthorized uniforms and/or ID

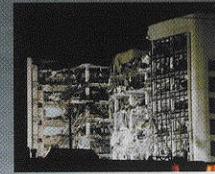
### BEHAVIORAL CHARACTERISTICS OR UNLAWFUL ACTIVITY

Inconsistent answers or delays when answering questions

Probing security systems and first responder procedures

Advance payments for apartment or vehicle rental; payments made in cash

A few months before unleashing his attack, Timothy McVeigh drove around Oklahoma City with accomplice Michael Fortier, surveyed the area, and identified the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building as the target.



In documented cases, terrorists have demonstrated the ability to assume false identities, avoid attracting attention, identify security strengths and weaknesses, conduct surveillance, conduct counter-surveillance, and encrypt communications.

In late 2000, 9-11 hijacker Mohammed Atta purchased flight deck videos for the Boeing 747, 757, 767, and Airbus A320 from a pilot store in Ohio.



Beginning in 1989, Clement Rodney Hampton-El (aka Dr. Rashid) and other members of 'Blind' Sheikh Rahman's Brooklyn sleeper-cell engaged in firearms training at a New Jersey rifle range and learned guerrilla techniques at a rural camp in central Pennsylvania.

## Pre-Operational Planning & Surveillance

Individual shows unusual or prolonged interest in security measures or personnel, entry points and access controls, or perimeter barriers such as fences or walls

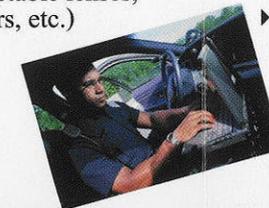
Individual questions security or facility personnel and/or observes security drills and procedures

Individual actively engages in "boundary probing," beginning with physical approaches to measure possible access restrictions and/or law enforcement presence and response

Individual possesses multiple hotel receipts, car rental receipts or other indications of frequent travel, and/or is evasive when questioned concerning past and future plans and destinations

Discreet use of still cameras, camera phone, video recorder, or note taking at non-tourist locations (e.g., government facilities, airports, bridges, chemical/electrical/water plants), or shows interest in areas not typically of interest to visitors or tourists

Unusual items are observed within the vehicle, such as blueprints, maps, sketching materials, surveillance equipment (e.g., binoculars, video cameras, cameras with extensive adaptable lenses, audio recorders, etc.)



## Countdown to Terror (Terror Attack Steps)

- ▶ Determine Type of Attack
  - Mass Casualty
  - Economic
  - Symbolic
- ▶ Obtain Financing
- ▶ Recruit Cell Members
- ▶ Provide Instruction/Training
- ▶ Secure Safe House
- ▶ Position Cell Members
- ▶ Develop Cover Stories
- ▶ Conceal Identities
- ▶ Receive Direction/Communicate
- ▶ Conduct Planning Meetings
- ▶ Surveil Potential Target(s)
- ▶ Select Target(s)
- ▶ Acquire Attack Materials
  - Firearms
  - Explosives
  - Components
  - Delivery Method
- ▶ Assemble Device(s)
- ▶ Store Device(s)
- ▶ Determine Attack Date(s)
- ▶ Conduct Pre-Attack Surveillance
- ▶ Attack

Many of the above steps involve activities that can be detected by vigilant observers. Take nothing for granted. If the activity is clearly out of the ordinary, report it.

## What To Do

If you observe something suspicious, do not automatically assume that there is a terrorist nexus. Likewise, never assume that there is a legitimate explanation behind something truly suspicious. Report all suspicious activity!

- ▶ Gather or document as much identifying information on the subject(s), vehicle(s), activity, or location as possible. Without a license number, good description, photo, or other tangible information, investigators will have a difficult time pursuing the tip.
- ▶ For law enforcement, run all available State and local databases.