

TO: ALL COMMANDS

RE: COUNTERTERRORISM VIGILANCE DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

NEW YORK CITY HAS BEEN AND REMAINS A TOP TARGET FOR TERRORISTS. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF THREATS OF VARYING SPECIFICITY OR CREDIBILITY CONCERNING NEW YORK CITY AT ANY GIVEN TIME. THIS REMAINS UNCHANGED DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON. BETWEEN APRIL AND JULY, THE FBI AND THE NYPD PREVENTED THREE SEPARATE PLOTS TARGETING NEW YORK CITY INVOLVING PLANS TO ATTACK INDIVIDUALS, OR BOMB PUBLIC EVENTS. BASED ON AN ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT THREAT STREAMS, UMOs SHOULD REMAIN VIGILANT AT ALL TIMES, ESPECIALLY IN CROWDED PUBLIC SPACES OR NEAR SYMBOLIC TARGETS.

THE USE OF SMALL-ARMS, ACTIVE SHOOTER TACTICS AND SUICIDE VESTS BY TERRORISTS HAVE PROVED TO BE EFFECTIVE TOOLS THAT ARE RELATIVELY LOW-TECH, INEXPENSIVE AND HIGH IMPACT. ATTACKS MAY BE DIRECTED BY A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION, ENABLED OR INSPIRED BY ONLINE PROPAGANDA. SUSPECTS IN RECENT INVESTIGATIONS HAVE USED NEW SOCIAL MEDIA APPLICATIONS THAT CAN NOT BE MONITORED. RECENT EVENTS, SUCH AS THE ATTACKS IN PARIS, FRANCE AND SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA UNDERSCORE THAT SUCH ATTACKS MAY COME WITH NO WARNING.

OFFICERS SHOULD BE ACUTELY AWARE OF THEIR SURROUNDINGS, SUSPICIOUS PACKAGES, PERSONS OR VEHICLES THAT COULD BE INDICATORS OF PRE-INCIDENT RECONNAISSANCE. UMOs SHOULD NOTE THE LOCATIONS OF CAMERAS ON THEIR POST, BOTH NYPD AND PRIVATE, IN CASE SUSPICIOUS TERRORIST ACTIVITY IS REPORTED. IF SIGNIFICANT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY IS NOTED, CALL FOR BACK UP IF NECESSARY, ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY INDIVIDUALS, NOTIFY A SUPERVISOR AND THE INTELLIGENCE BUREAU OPERATIONS UNIT.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT OFFICERS FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES WITH RECENTLY REVISED PATROL GUIDE PROCEDURE 212-120 "ACTIVE SHOOTER RESPONSE PROTOCOL." IN THE EVENT OF AN ACTIVE-SHOOTER OR TERRORIST ATTACK, MEMBERS OF THE SERVICE SHOULD ENGAGE IN A CONTROLLED RESPONSE AS DIRECTED BY SUPERVISORS AND COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION AFTER SUFFICIENT UNITS HAVE ARRIVED. AVOID MASS SELF-DEPLOYMENT THAT CAN BLOCK-IN POLICE VEHICLES, STRIP RESOURCES AND HAMPER RESPONSE TO OTHER INCIDENTS. PAST TERRORIST INCIDENTS (PARIS, MUMBAI, ETC.) HAVE DEMONSTRATED THAT THE FIRST INCIDENT MAY BE ONLY THE EARLY PHASE OF A MULTI-PRONGED ATTACK.

FOR PROLONGED INCIDENTS, COMMAND POSTS AND TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS VEHICLES SHOULD BE STAGED AT A SAFE DISTANCE IN THE OUTER-PERIMETER OF THE SCENE (ONE OR TWO BLOCKS).

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