



## SUMMARY OF TERRORISM THREAT TO THE U.S. HOMELAND

Since 2015, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has used this Bulletin to highlight the continuing terror threat to the U.S. Homeland. The United States is engaged in a generational fight against terrorists who seek to attack the American people, our country, and our way of life. An informed, vigilant and engaged public remains one of our greatest assets to identify potential terrorists and prevent attacks.

### DURATION

This Bulletin will expire on or before **January 18, 2019** at 1:00 PM EST

## ADDITIONAL DETAILS

- We continue to face one of the most challenging threat environments since 9/11, as foreign terrorist organizations exploit the Internet to inspire, enable, or direct individuals already here in the homeland to commit terrorist acts. Homegrown terror suspects increasingly rely on technology, such as end-to-end encrypted social media applications, to avoid detection.
- Terrorist groups are urging recruits to adopt easy-to-use tools to target public places and events. Specific attack tactics have included the use of vehicle ramming, to include the use of rental vehicles, small arms, straight-edged blades or knives, homemade explosives, and poisons or toxins.
- Some terrorist groups overseas are using battlefield experiences to pursue new technologies and tactics, such as unmanned aerial systems and chemical agents that could be used outside the conflict zones. Many of these technologies are readily available. Additionally, terrorists continue to target commercial aviation and air cargo, including with concealed explosives.
- Violent extremist media encourages individuals worldwide to launch attacks using all means possible. Continued U.S. and partner successes in disrupting and defeating terrorists on the battlefield may encourage homegrown terrorists to carry out acts of violence in the homeland instead of attempting to travel overseas to fight or in retaliation for apparent losses.
- Additionally, foreign terrorist fighters who have acquired training and battle-tested terrorism experience may flee from terrorist-controlled territories with a desire to conduct attacks elsewhere, including the United States.

## U.S. GOVERNMENT COUNTERTERRORISM EFFORTS

- DHS and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) continue to provide guidance to state, local, tribal and territorial partners related to the current threat environment. DHS continues to support the private sector to provide risk assessments and to coordinating security measures with business owners and operators. The public may continue to observe law enforcement and security activity in and around public places and events.
- DHS works closely with the FBI and other intelligence partners to detect and disrupt terror suspects, enhance screening and vetting measures to identify suspicious travelers and cargo, combating violent radicalization and terrorist recruitment in our communities, monitoring emerging threats, and engaging with foreign partners.
- More broadly, DHS remains committed to preventing violence and threats meant to intimidate or coerce specific populations on the basis of their religion, ethnicity or identity.
- DHS is enhancing its program to secure potential [soft targets and crowded places](#), including schools.

### TYPES OF ADVISORIES

#### Bulletin

Describes current developments or general trends regarding threats of terrorism.

#### Elevated Alert

Warns of a credible terrorism threat against the United States.

#### Imminent Alert

Warns of a credible, specific and impending terrorism threat against the United States.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Report suspicious activity to local law enforcement who are best to offer specific details on terroristic indicators.
- Report suspicious activity or information about a threat, including online activity, to fusion centers and the FBI's Field Offices - part of the Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative.
- Learn [how to recognize signs of pre-operational planning](#) associated with terrorism or other criminal activity.

## BE PREPARED

- Be prepared for security and plan ahead. Anticipate delays and restrictions on items around populated places and at public events.
- Be responsible for your personal safety. Know where emergency exits and security personnel are located. Carry emergency contact and special needs information with you.
- [Connect](#), [Plan](#), [Train](#), and [Report](#) to prepare businesses & employees. Security tools/resources can be accessed through the DHS's [Hometown Security Campaign](#).

## STAY INFORMED

- The U.S. Government will provide additional information about any emerging threat as additional information is identified. The public is encouraged to listen to local law enforcement and public safety officials.
- We urge Americans to continue to travel, attend public events, and freely associate with others but remain vigilant and aware of surroundings.
- The Department of State issues [international travel alerts and warnings](#).
- For additional information visit [Ready](#).

**If You See Something, Say Something™. Report suspicious activity to local law enforcement or call 911.**

The National Terrorism Advisory System provides information on homeland security issues and threats. It is distributed by the Department of Homeland Security. More information is available at: [www.dhs.gov/advisories](http://www.dhs.gov/advisories). To receive mobile updates: [www.twitter.com/dhsgov](https://www.twitter.com/dhsgov)

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