



MARITIME SAFETY/SECURITY
INFORMATION BULLETIN
(MSIB) 04-14



August 2, 2004

Coast Guard Marine Safety Office San Francisco Bay
Department of Homeland Security

VEHICLE BORNE IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES (VBIED)

This information bulletin is provided to alert port stakeholders to the potential for terrorist use of heavy transport vehicles as Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Devices (VBIED) against targets in the United States. Although there is no specific information to discern the exact location or timing of a planned attack, indicators are such that increased diligence is warranted. Extra vigilance is also warranted at transportation nodes where several forms of transport connect, such as rail yards and seaports. Port stakeholders should be sensitive to irregular activity in connection with large public gatherings or significant public or private facilities with high economic or symbolic value. Terrorist planners understand it may be necessary to require their drivers to have Commercial Drivers Licenses (CDL), with a Hazardous Material (HAZMAT) certification. This may facilitate the movement of explosives or Weapons of Mass Effect (WME) across international borders without attracting undue attention. Terrorists have also shown an interest in planning attacks that employ quantities of HAZMAT that could be used as a WME, such as gasoline or chemical tank trucks. The FBI has reported incidents of missing commercial busses and stolen propane tanker trucks. Terrorists remain interested in attacking military and economic targets, however, there are no specifics on timing or priority of possible attacks. Port stakeholders should be concerned about the potential for mass casualties and the disrupting of economic and transportation infrastructure targets. Port stakeholders are encouraged to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities to law enforcement agencies or the Captain of the Port at (415) 399-3547.

Sincerely,

GERALD M. SWANSON
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port / Federal Maritime Security Coordinator