

Chapter-9

Emergency Management and the Terrorist Threat



FIGURE 9.1: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Apr. 26, 1995—A scene of the devastated Murrah Building following the Oklahoma City bombing. FEMA News Photo.



FIGURE 9.2: New York City, New York, Sep. 25, 2001—Fragments of the World Trade Center facade are all that remain of the 110-story structures that once dominated the skyline of lower Manhattan. Photo by Mike Rieger/FEMA News Photo.

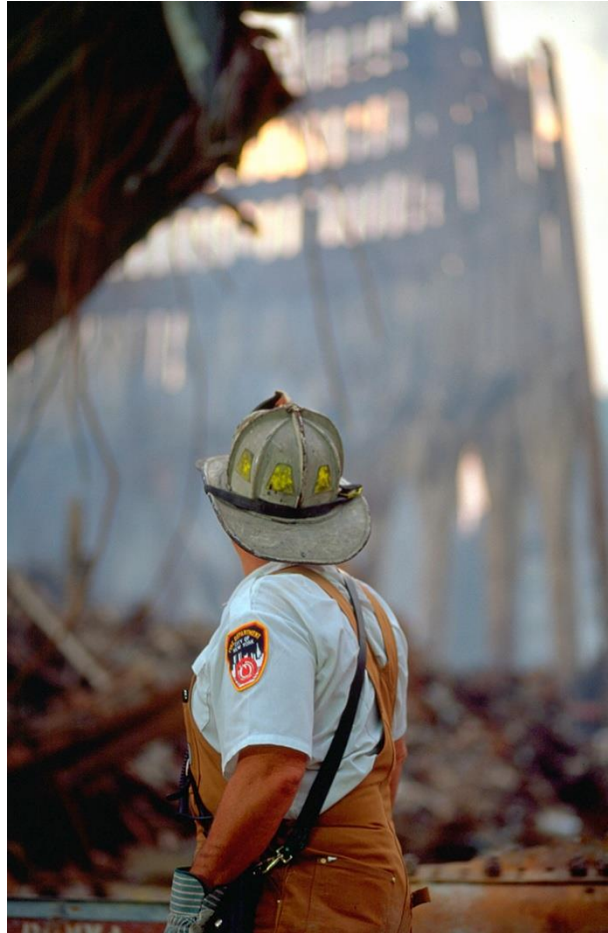


FIGURE 9.3: New York City, New York, Oct. 13, 2001—A month later, New York firefighters were still at work putting out fires at the site of the World Trade Center. Photo by Andrea Booher/FEMA News Photo.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

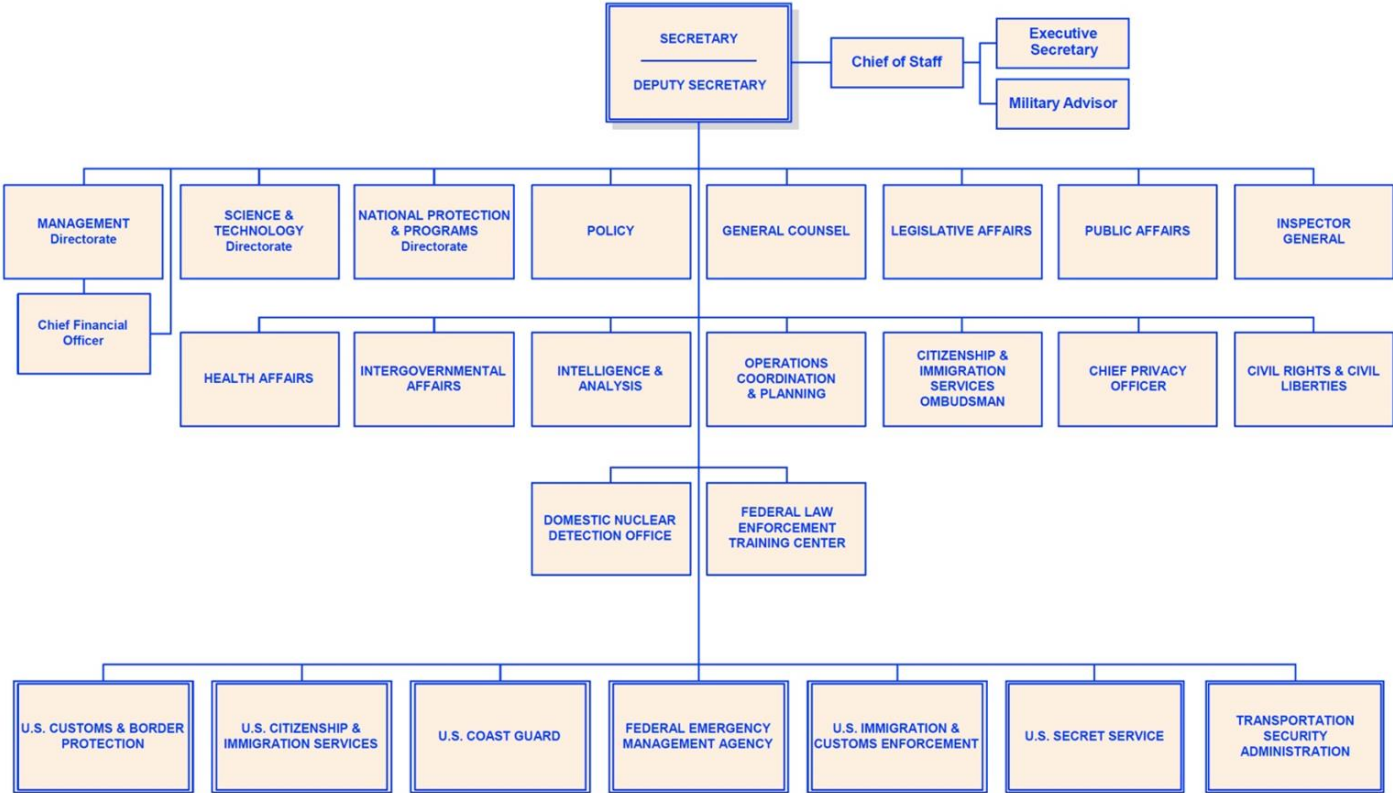


FIGURE 9.4: DHS Organizational Chart. DHS, 2016.

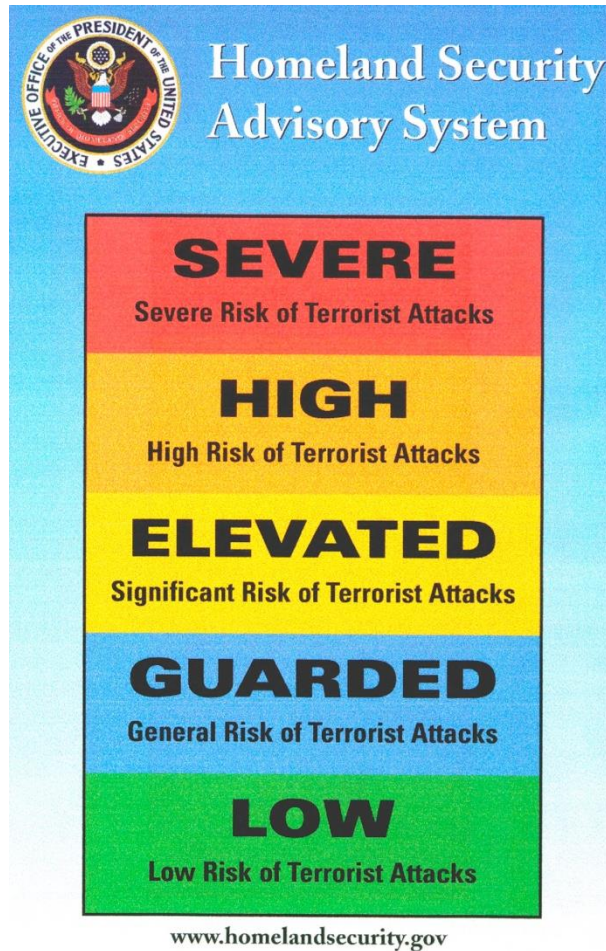



FIGURE 9.5: The Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS) was unveiled in 2002. It was replaced by the National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) in 2011.



National Terrorism Advisory System

Alert

www.dhs.gov/alerts

DATE & TIME ISSUED: XXXX

SUMMARY

The Secretary of Homeland Security informs the public and relevant government and private sector partners about a potential or actual threat with this alert, indicating whether there is an "imminent" or "elevated" threat.

DURATION

An individual threat alert is issued for a specific time period and then automatically expires. It may be extended if new information becomes available or the threat evolves.

DETAILS

- This section provides more detail about the threat and what the public and sectors need to know.
- It may include specific information, if available, about the nature and credibility of the threat, including the critical infrastructure sector(s) or location(s) that may be affected.
- It includes as much information as can be released publicly about actions being taken or planned by authorities to ensure public safety, such as increased protective actions and what the public may expect to see.

AFFECTED AREAS

- This section includes visual depictions (such as maps or other graphics) showing the affected location(s), sector(s), or other illustrative detail about the threat itself.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- This section provides information on ways the public can help authorities (e.g. camera phone pictures taken at the site of an explosion), and reinforces the importance of reporting suspicious activity.
- It may ask the public or certain sectors to be alert for a particular item, situation, person, activity or developing trend.

STAY PREPARED

- This section emphasizes the importance of the public planning and preparing for emergencies before they happen, including specific steps individuals, families and businesses can take to ready themselves and their communities.
- It provides additional preparedness information that may be relevant based on this threat.

STAY INFORMED


- This section notifies the public about where to get more information.
- It encourages citizens to stay informed about updates from local public safety and community leaders.
- It includes a link to the DHS NTAS website
<http://www.dhs.gov/alerts> and
<http://twitter.com/NTASAlerts>

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

The National Terrorism Advisory System provides Americans with alert information on homeland security threats. It is distributed by the Department of Homeland Security. More information is available at www.dhs.gov/alerts. To receive mobile updates: www.twitter.com/NTASAlerts

*If You See Something Say Something™ used with permission of the NY Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

FIGURE 9.6: NTAS alert fact sheet. DHS, 2011, <http://bit.ly/2e7extS>.



National Terrorism Advisory System

Bulletin

www.dhs.gov/advisories

DATE AND TIME ISSUED: 06/15/2016 2:00 P.M. ET

SUMMARY

In December, we described a new phase in the global threat environment, which has implications on the homeland. This basic assessment has not changed. In this environment, we are particularly concerned about homegrown violent extremists who could strike with little or no notice. The tragic events of Orlando several days ago reinforce this. Accordingly, increased public vigilance and awareness continue to be of utmost importance. This bulletin has a five-month duration and will expire just before the holiday season. We will reassess the threats of terrorism at that time.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

- Since issuing the first Bulletin in December, our concerns that violent extremists could be inspired to conduct attacks inside the U.S. have not diminished.
- Though we know of no intelligence that is both specific and credible at this time of a plot by terrorist organizations to attack the homeland, the reality is terrorist-inspired individuals have conducted, or attempted to conduct, attacks in the United States.
- DHS is especially concerned that terrorist-inspired individuals and homegrown violent extremists may be encouraged or inspired to target public events or places.
- As we saw in the attacks in San Bernardino, Paris, Brussels, and, most recently, Orlando, terrorists will consider a diverse and wide selection of targets for attacks.
- Terrorist use of the Internet to inspire individuals to violence or join their ranks remains a major source of concern.
- In the current environment, DHS is also concerned about threats and violence directed at particular communities and individuals across the country, based on perceived religion, ethnicity, nationality or sexual orientation.

U.S. GOVERNMENT COUNTERTERRORISM EFFORTS

- DHS and the FBI continue to provide guidance to state and local partners on increased security measures. The public may observe an increased law enforcement and security presence across communities, in public places and at events in the months ahead. This may include additional restrictions and searches on bags, more K-9 teams, and the use of screening technologies.
- The FBI is investigating potential terrorism-related activities associated with this broad threat throughout the United States. Federal, state, and local authorities are coordinating numerous law enforcement actions and conducting community outreach to address this evolving threat.

DURATION

This Bulletin will expire on
November 15, 2016
at 11:59 p.m.

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 or public safety officials who are best positioned to respond and offer specific details on terroristic indicators.
- Suspicious activity or information about a threat may also be reported 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 increased security and plan ahead to anticipate delays and restricted/prohibited items.
- In populated places, be responsible for your personal safety. Make a mental note of emergency exits and locations of the nearest security personnel. Keep cell phones in your pockets instead of bags or on tables so you don't lose them during an incident. Carry emergency contact details and any special needs information with you at all times. For more visit [Ready](#).

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](#).

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. To receive mobile updates: [www.twitter.com/dhsagov](https://twitter.com/dhsagov)

If You See Something, Say Something™ used with permission of the NY Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

NTAS ADVISORY 2016.001-B

FIGURE 9.7: Sample NTAS alert. DHS.