



# Communities Against Terrorism

## Potential Indicators of Terrorist Activities Related to General Aviation Airports

### What Should I Consider Suspicious?

- Individuals who are taking flying lessons or ask about lessons and are uninterested in learning all that is necessary to pilot an aircraft safely.
- Attempts to obtain flying lessons or rent or charter a plane without proper identification.
- Inquiries about renting or chartering an aircraft for questionable or vague reasons.
- Requests to be flown through restricted airspace.
- Requests to be flown over specific potentially sensitive locations (e.g., schools, dams, bridges) for unsubstantiated reasons.
- Individuals on chartered flights who take pictures or videos of potentially sensitive locations.
- Individuals who appear more interested in photographing/documenting airport security procedures and safeguards than airplanes.
- Inquiries about buying aviation fuel in containers as opposed to dispensing it into an airplane.
- Attempts to load fuel or propane into a passenger compartment of an aircraft.
- Evidence of attempted breaches of airport perimeter security (e.g., holes in fences).
- Individuals whose actions/behaviors are outside the norm and raise your suspicions based on your experience.
- Vehicles parked near an airport perimeter fence, especially for extended periods.
- Attempts to leave or enter airport buildings through emergency exits, employee doors, or other outlets not designed for public access.
- Airport employees who are found in areas that are not permitted by their airport credentials.
- Requests for information about airport security procedures, staffing, or equipment.
- Persons requesting ramp security access codes.
- Individuals who ask about crop dusting planes and are unable to provide a satisfactory reason for the inquiry.
- Non-U.S. citizens applying for flight training with an expired M-1 vocational visa or without the required M-1 vocational visa.

Office of the Sheriff, Queen Anne's County

Sheriff Gary Hofmann

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### What Should I Do?

**If something seems wrong, notify law enforcement authorities.**

- Report suspicious activity to the General Aviation Hotline (866) GA-SECURE or (866) 427-3287.
- Establish a contact (e.g., airport manager) at the airport for easy reporting of suspicious activities.
- Restrict entry to specific airport facilities.
- Ensure that all flight school employees complete required Flight School Security Awareness (FSSA) training every year.
- Educate airport personnel about indicators of terrorist activities.
- Work with local law enforcement to ensure that the airport perimeter is patrolled.
- Install security cameras at all entrances and exits to airport buildings.
- Make note of suspicious statements, people, and/or vehicles.

**Do not jeopardize your safety or the safety of others.**

**Agency Point of Contact:**  
**Lt. Mark A. Meil**  
**(410) 758-0770 Ext# 1235**

Terrorism may be national or international in scope, but terrorist incidents occur locally and are preceded by a number of pre-incident activities. Individuals in the community are key to identifying these pre-incident activities. By learning what to look for, **you** can aid law enforcement officials in protecting the homeland.

Your knowledge can be an invaluable resource to the law enforcement community. In your business arena, **you** are best informed about what constitutes suspicious activity.

By being aware of what to look for and knowing how to report suspicious behavior, **you** can make a positive contribution in the fight against terrorism. **The partnership between the community and law enforcement is essential to the success of anti-terrorism efforts.**

It is important to remember that just because someone's speech, actions, beliefs, appearance, or way of life is different, it does not mean that he or she is suspicious. Instead, focus on behavior and activities that are unusual or out of place for the situation and that appear to be suspicious.

The activities outlined on this handout are by no means all-inclusive but have been compiled from a review of terrorist events over several years. Some of the activities, taken individually, could be innocent and must be examined by law enforcement professionals in a larger context to determine whether there is a basis to investigate.

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