



Comprehensive Database on Surface Transportation Threats Assists Transit Officials

The **Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI) Database on Terrorist and Serious Criminal Attacks Against Public Surface Transportation** is giving transit officials, security planners, and policy makers important insights into public surface transportation threats, such as terrorist attacks against trains and buses. Developed by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology (S&T) National Transportation Security Center of Excellence (NTSCOE),* the MTI Database provides information on more than 3,000 attacks against public transit over the last 40 years.

One-of-a-Kind Resource on Public Transit Attacks

This one-of-a-kind database contains incident date, location, number of fatalities and injuries, perpetrator, target, type of attack, weapon used, and a narrative of the event. Information is sorted into 56 transportation target subtypes; 52 attack subtypes; and 25 delivery methods that involve incendiaries or explosives. A User's Guide is available to help users understand and interpret the data.



Benefits of Using the MTI Database

- Identifies trends in terrorist targets, tactics and methods related to public transit
- Helps in the development of lessons learned and identification of best practices
- Aids decision makers in the development of policy
- Provides data for conducting risk analysis studies
- Supports planning for the design of new urban transit systems to prevent and mitigate risks of terrorist and criminal attacks

MTI Database Put to Use

Database information and analysis has been used for:

- DHS Transportation Security Administration (TSA), Offices of Intelligence and Analysis and Security Policy and Industry Engagement reports
- Training materials for TSA's Bus Operator Awareness Training program
- Training curriculum by TSA's Office of Security Operations Explosives Division
- Congressional testimony about AMTRAK
- Congressional hearings about Osama bin Laden contemplating attacks against passenger rail
- Developing a partnership and Memorandum of Understanding to share information and analyses between NTSCOE's co-lead, Mineta Transportation Institute, and Surface Transportation and Public Transportation Information Sharing and Analysis Centers.

Sobering Facts Gleaned from the MTI Database

- 71% of surface transportation attacks result in zero casualties.
- 15% of attacks are stopped by alert citizens, security guards, and others.
- Attacks against surface transportation are more common and result in more deaths and injuries than those against airlines and airports.
- Buses are attacked more often than trains, but train attacks are more lethal.
- Bomb attacks account for 75% of all public transit attacks but kill fewer people on average.
- The most lethal attacks on public transit are not carried out by suicide bombers.
- From September 2001 through July 2011, terrorists carried out 1,907 attacks against public surface transportation throughout the world (not including attacks in the war zones in Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia); these attacks resulted in 3,918 deaths and 13,869 injuries.

* The Mineta Transportation Institute at San Jose State University won the DHS S&T Impact Award in 2011 for transitioning analytical findings from the MTI Database into training for TSA Explosives Operators.