



ROLL CALL RELEASE

INTELLIGENCE FOR POLICE, FIRE, EMS, AND SECURITY PERSONNEL



(U) Common Pre-Travel Activities of Aspiring US Foreign Fighters

(U) An unclassified review of recently arrested US persons who aspired to travel or succeeded in traveling to fight with or support foreign terrorist organizations produced a list of common, observable activities by many of the individuals leading up to their planned travel. Some observed activities that may be suspicious include constitutionally protected activity. These activities should not be reported absent articulable facts and circumstances that support the source agency or bystander's suspicion that the observed behavior is not innocent, but rather reasonably indicative of criminal activity associated with terrorism, such as indications of possible preparations for or attempts to travel overseas to engage in or support violence.

- » (U) Posting public comments or links on social media sites that promote violent extremist groups, especially videos, magazines, or stating one's desire to travel to join such groups;
- » (U) Consuming and sharing violent extremist messaging calling for Westerners to travel to become foreign fighters and support overseas violent extremist groups;
- » (U) Communicating with known or suspected US- or overseas-based violent extremists in person or on social media sites such as Ask.fm, Facebook, Instagram, Telegram, Tumblr, and Twitter;
- » (U) Expressing a desire, either in person or online, to become a foreign fighter to support violent extremist groups or marry a foreign fighter living in an overseas conflict zone;
- » (U) Requesting or receiving in-person or online travel facilitation support to join an overseas violent extremist group, including guidance on travel routes, safe houses, and contact information for facilitators;
- » (U) Applying for a new passport or attempting to obtain a fraudulent passport by individuals who have expressed a desire to travel overseas to engage in or support violence;
- » (U) Researching or discussing methods to evade traveler screening, such as expressing a desire to use fraudulent documents, circuitous travel routes, or departures from the United States to an overseas conflict zone via a land border or maritime vessel;
- » (U) Destroying electronic media and deactivating social media accounts that individuals previously used to post their support for violent extremist groups or causes;
- » (U) Using cover stories to mask nefarious activities, such as plans to travel overseas to engage in or support violence;
- » (U) Giving away or selling worldly possessions such as cars and electronics; maxing out credit cards; taking out money from student loan accounts; or borrowing money from friends and relatives, in conjunction with an expressed desire to travel overseas to engage in or support violence;
- » (U) Newly engaging in firearms or physical training while expressing a desire to go overseas to engage in or support violence;
- » (U) Unusual attempts, which might arouse suspicion in a reasonable person, to determine one's watchlist status through interactions with federal or local law enforcement or private sector personnel;
- » (U) Attempts by individuals associated with known or suspected terrorists to travel to countries with significant foreign fighter activity, or adjacent countries, in conjunction with advocacy of violence; and
- » (U) Concealing travel history, possibly to avoid detection of activities related to supporting violence.

(U) Report Suspicious Activity

(U) To report suspicious activity, law enforcement, Fire-EMS, private security personnel, and emergency managers should follow established protocols; all other personnel should call 911 or contact local law enforcement. Suspicious activity reports (SARs) will be forwarded to the appropriate fusion center and FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force for further action. For more information on the Nationwide SAR Initiative, visit <http://nsi.ncirc.gov/resources.aspx>.

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(U) Prepared by the DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A); FBI, Directorate of Intelligence; and National Counterterrorism Center. This product is intended to assist federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, and private sector first responders in effectively deterring, preventing, preempting, or responding to terrorist attacks against the United States.