

Security Grant Will Fortify Metro System Against Terrorism

By GARY WOSK

(May 16, 2003) The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has awarded MTA a \$4.57 million grant to prevent potential acts of terrorism by fortifying security already in place on the Metro system.

The grant also will permit the agency to invest in new prevention measures.

"This means a lot to the overall security of the system," says Transit Police Chief Dan Finkelstein. "It gives us more eyes and ears and resources that will allow us to work smarter."

The funds were distributed as part of a \$700 million grant program for urban areas. The allocation included \$65 million for the top 20 transit agencies in America, an amount Homeland Security says can be spent on:

- Installing physical barriers and monitoring systems, including video surveillance, motion detectors, thermal/infrared imagery and chemical/radiological material systems and communications systems.
- Prevention planning, training and exercises.
- Expenses incurred during ORANGE alerts from January 2003 to April 2003.

MTA previously received \$50,000 from Homeland Security to conduct anti-terrorism and terrorism disaster drills.

MTA has requested an additional \$11.4 million in security funding from Congress in the federal FY 2004 appropriations bill.

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