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- Bus Operations Control -- 213-922-6280
- Metro Security Control -- 213-922-7600

Deputies Near Goal of Training All Employees in Anti-Terror Tactics

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Feb. 11, 2005) Sheriff's deputies Britta Kjellstrand and Ban Nguyen are on the verge of reaching an important goal – providing terrorism awareness training to virtually every Metro employee.

Since April 2004, the deputies have taught more than 8,500 employees in classes at the operating divisions and at Metro Headquarters.

They also have mailed a 16-page pamphlet, titled "What You Can Do To Help," to every employee and have distributed wallet cards with emergency phone numbers. The goal of the effort is to develop extra eyes and ears in the quest to prevent terrorist violence.



PHOTO: BILL HEARD

Sheriff's Deputy Britta Kjellstrand shows how a suicide bomber constructs a device laden with explosives during a class anti-terrorist tactics.

In addition to the Metro program, Kjellstrand and Nguyen are training employees of the county's municipal transit agencies. The program, called "Train the Trainer," is intended to teach muni employees the anti-terrorism "warning signs" and extend the reach of law enforcement efforts.

"A key component of terrorism is to instill in people the belief that their government cannot protect them," says Metro Police Chief Capt. Dan Finkelstein. "The goal of this training program is to empower all Metro employees to take an active role in the prevention of terrorism and general crime. Additionally, having the knowledge and skills to not be unnecessarily alarmed by sensationalism in the media makes us a

stronger team in the counter-terrorism effort."

Be aware of surroundings

A video shown during the class illustrates how transit employees can help guard against terrorist activities. It advises bus and train operators, maintenance workers and other transit employees to be aware of their surroundings when using transit.

Employees should report people who are out of place, don't have proper identification and are behaving oddly, but "profiling" people on the basis of race or appearance should be avoided.

Employees should be alert for unattended packages and for suspicious devices placed in or near transit facilities.

One indicator that a chemical, biological or radiological device has been used, according to the video, is if two or more people on a train or in an enclosed area suddenly become ill.

Funding for the anti-terrorism training comes from a \$4.7 million Homeland Security Department grant, which also is being used to purchase emergency response vehicles, chemical detectors for transit facilities, to deploy search and rescue dogs and weapons detecting dogs, among other things.

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