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Metro Steps Up Security; Training with Air Marshals Scheduled

(Aug. 11, 2006) Although there's no indication of a threat against Los Angeles-area surface transportation following arrests of alleged terrorists in London and Pakistan, the Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau (TSB) has taken measures to tighten security on Metro Bus and Metro Rail lines.

Metro Police Chief Cmdr. Dan Finkelstein said Thursday that undercover officers, additional deputies and bomb-sniffing dogs have been deployed to patrol the Metro system.

Canine teams also have been stationed at the Metrolink station near the Bob Hope Airport in Burbank, he said.

Meanwhile, a security training exercise planned for next week in which TSB deputies and Federal Air Marshals would patrol the Metro Red Line is scheduled to continue subject to any change in world events, according to Sheriff's Lt. George Grein.

Exercise coordinators are waiting for federal officials to confirm that the marshals will be available to participate, given the heightened security measures taken since British police revealed the existence of a terrorist plot against U.S.-bound aircraft.

