

## **Homeland Security Grant will help MTA and Transit Police Protect Metro System Passengers Against Terrorism**

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has awarded MTA \$4.57 million in grant money to fortify security already in place on Metro Buses and the Metro Rail System to prevent potential acts of terrorism and also invest in new prevention measures.

"This means a lot to the overall security of the system," said LA County Sheriff's Department Capt. Dan Finkelstein, also MTA's chief of Transit Police. "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 the Department of Homeland Security stipulated can be spent on:

- Installing physical barriers, monitoring systems including video surveillance, motion detectors, thermal/infrared imagery, chemical/radiological material systems and communications systems
- Prevention planning, training and exercises
- Expenses incurred during ORANGE alerts January 2003-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, part of the Federal Fiscal Year 2004 appropriations bill.

**MTA-074**

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