



New York State  
Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services

Office of Counter Terrorism

JOHN R. GIBB  
ACTING COMMISSIONER

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EXECUTIVE DEPUTY  
COMMISSIONER & DIRECTOR  
OFFICE OF COUNTER TERRORISM

Dear Sir or Madam:

New York State law enforcement has been communicating with a wide range of corporations, businesses and industries throughout the State with **Operation SAFEGUARD** since 2004. With this program, the Office of Counter Terrorism seeks to establish a procedure that may be helpful in reporting information or circumstances that appear unusual or suspicious to you, your employees, or members of your respective professional association which could be of possible assistance to law enforcement.

There is concern that individuals seeking to commit acts of terrorism, while portraying themselves as legitimate customers, may be attempting to purchase or lease certain materials or equipment or undergo formalized training to acquire certain skills or licenses. There is also a concern that individuals could also be attempting to steal certain types of vehicles, equipment or materials from the inventory of legitimate businesses. Whatever the method used by these individuals, the acquired items and/or skills could then be used to facilitate an act of terrorism.

Instances of suspicious activity observed by you or your employees may not be criminal per se, but may be peculiar and unusual because it does not resemble the usual pattern your personal business or industry routinely experiences when dealing with customer requests. The option to contact the New York State Tips line or your local Police Department is intended to encourage and facilitate an exchange of information in such matters, and provide yet another resource to the public.

The NY State Toll-Free Tips line may be contacted 24-hours a day, seven days a week by calling: 1-866-SAFE-NYS.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

James M. Sherry  
Executive Deputy Commissioner &  
Acting Director, Office of Counter  
Terrorism



## ***OPERATION SAFEGUARD***

### **SHOOTING RANGES/ROD & GUN CLUBS**

As described in the accompanying letter, *Operation SAFEGUARD* is based on the idea that certain legitimate businesses and industries may be unknowingly exploited by terrorists who portray themselves as honest customers seeking to purchase, lease or somehow appropriate certain material, licenses and/or services to covertly further a terrorist plot.

The following are general indicators of potential terrorist planning or activities. Alone each indicator can result from legitimate recreational or commercial activities or criminal activity not related to terrorism; however, multiple indicators combined with other information can possibly suggest a terrorist threat.

- Physical surveillance, which may include note taking or the use of binoculars, cameras or maps near key facilities.
- Attempts to gain sensitive information regarding key facilities or personnel through personal contact or by telephone, mail or e-mail.
- Attempts to penetrate or test physical security and response procedures at key facilities.
- Attempts to improperly acquire explosives, weapons, ammunition, dangerous chemicals, flight manuals or other materials which could be used in a terrorist attack.
- Suspicious or improper attempts to acquire official vehicles, uniforms, badges, access cards or identification for key facilities.
- Presence of individuals who do not appear to belong in the workplace, business establishment or near a key facility.
- Behavior which appears to denote planning for terrorist activity, such as mapping out routes, playing out scenarios, monitoring key facilities and timing traffic flow or signals.
- Stockpiling suspicious materials or abandoning potential containers for explosives (e.g., vehicles or suitcases).

The following examples of activity relating to Shooting Ranges/Rod & Gun Clubs, though not fully inclusive, may be of *possible* concern to law enforcement:

- Individuals or groups appearing to conduct training that incorporates group tactics or simulates close-quarters combat situations, under suspicious circumstances.
- Individuals who appear to incorporate or account for the presence of law enforcement in combat simulations.
- Information that suggests an individual received foreign military training or attended a military training camp overseas.

- A group of individuals that significantly stand apart because of their unusual intensity in an apparent training regimen, the level of deference or respect given to a specific group member or the extraordinary repetition of tedious drills.
- Evasive responses to routine questions posed by you or your employees.
- Unusual inquiries or statements made by individuals involved in recreational shooting or sporting activity.
- Inconsistencies in an individual's obvious knowledge, training and experience with the handling of firearms and their statements to you (i.e., an attempt to mask or conceal any proficiency possessed).

Your impressions and assessment based upon your professional business experience are extremely valuable and should help guide you in determining if a customer request, a fact pattern or set of circumstances is unusual. Please remember that the conduct itself does not have to be criminal per se for you to report it to the NY State Toll-Free Tips line. It may be contacted 24-hours a day, seven days a week by calling:

**1-866-SAFE-NYS**  
**1-866-723-3697**

- Physical surveillance which may include the use of binoculars, cameras or night-vision devices.
  - Attempts to gain sensitive information regarding facilities or personnel through personal contact or by telephone, mail or e-mail.
  - Attempts to penetrate or test physical security and response procedures at key facilities.
  - Attempts to improperly acquire explosives, weapons, ammunition, dangerous chemicals, light munitions or other materials which could be used in a terrorist attack.
  - Suspicion or receipt of suspicious items to agents of law enforcement, such as suspicious cards or identification, key facilities.
  - Presence of individuals who do not appear to belong in the workplace, business establishment or local area.
  - Suspicious activity or behavior in a public place, such as a shopping mall, airport, train station, or public building.
  - Suspicious activity or behavior in a restricted access area, such as a government building, military installation, or other sensitive facility.
  - Suspicious activity or behavior in a restricted access area, such as a government building, military installation, or other sensitive facility.
- The following examples of activity relating to Shooting Range & Gun Club are not fully inclusive but are of possible concern to law enforcement:
- Individuals or groups appearing to conduct training that incorporates gun tactics or simulates combat situations under suspicious circumstances.
  - Individuals who appear to be preparing or scouting for the presence of law enforcement in a restricted area.
  - Information that suggests an individual received foreign military training or attended a military training camp overseas.