



# Potential Indicators of Terrorist Activities Related to Firearms Shops and Ranges

**Note:** The FBI does not intend to interfere with an individual's right to purchase a firearm or deny the Constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens. There may be a perfectly legitimate reason why any of the indicators described below is present; we are counting on you to determine when that is *not* the case.

## What Should I Consider Suspicious?

### Related to Individual Appearance, General Behavior, and Communications:

- Alters appearance from visit to visit (beard shaved off, hair color changed, etc.)
- Insists on paying with cash or uses credit card(s) in different name(s)
- Identification provided is inconsistent or person demands identity privacy
- Customer travels illogical distance to purchase a firearm or train/practice at gun range
- Buying a large number of the same or similar model firearms
- Attempting to conceal conversations (beyond mere price negotiations)
- Acting evasively during conversations or while responding to questions
- Individuals who together are interested in learning group tactics
- Participants making racist or extreme religious statements
- Unusual comments made regarding anti-US, radical theology, vague or cryptic warnings
- Interested in using a firearm in a manner inconsistent with the type of weapon being purchased
- Purchasing firearms in a way revealing intent to circumvent legal restrictions
- Purchasing firearms in a manner meant to avoid the multiple sales reporting requirements
- Inquiring about the illegal conversion of firearms
- Expressing interest in the deadly force of the firearm beyond the interest typically shown by purchasers
- Expressing interest for ammunition which can penetrate law enforcement body armor
- Practice of kidnapping or ambush scenarios at ranges
- Referring to military/jihad training manuals in a threatening manner

*It is important to remember that just because someone's speech, actions, beliefs, appearance, or way of life is different; it does not mean that he or she is suspicious.*

**FBI Albany**  
**Joint Terrorism Task Force**  
**(518) 465-7551**

## What Should I Do?

**If something seems wrong, notify law enforcement authorities.**

**Do not jeopardize your safety or the safety of others.**

Preventing terrorism is a **community effort**. By learning what to look for, **you** can make a positive contribution in the fight against terrorism. The **partnership between the community and law enforcement is essential** to the success of anti-terrorism efforts.

Ask questions about the purchase and the intended use of the firearm. By asking questions, you may prevent a potentially unlawful firearms transaction.

Exercise your right to decline a transaction if the customer appears nervous or uneasy, avoids eye contact, or if you are unsure whether the sale is legal.

If you have lawfully sold a firearm, ammunition, provided gunsmith services, or firearm training services, and you later uncover any unusual information about your customer, you are encouraged to contact your local Joint Terrorism Task Force.

Some of the activities, taken individually, could be innocent and must be examined by law enforcement professionals in a larger context to determine whether there is a basis to investigate. The activities outlined on this handout are by no means all-inclusive but have been compiled from a review of terrorist events over several years.