



Office of the Attorney General  
Washington, D.C. 20530

November 13, 2001

MEMORANDUM TO THE ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR THE OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS, THE DIRECTORS OF THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES AND THE OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS, AND ALL UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL 

SUBJECT Training in Counter-Terrorism: Federal, State, and Local Coordination

The Department is currently engaged in a multi-front effort both to prevent future terrorist attacks and to investigate the horrific acts of terror that occurred on September 11. As we implement new tools for fighting terrorism in the recently enacted USA PATRIOT Act of 2001 and continue our investigation, we must ensure that federal, state, and local law enforcement are properly trained to mobilize all available resources and deploy all appropriate weapons to win this war.

The need for training encompasses all issues involved in combating terrorism – from gathering information to formulating the “first response”; from identifying valuable intelligence information to sharing it; from countering traditional explosives threats to responding to threats of biological, chemical, and other weapons of mass destruction. Although our overriding goal is to prevent any further terrorist activity, we also must be ready at all levels to respond to any attacks in the safest and most efficient fashion. Training must be made available to all who are on the front lines of this war, including police officers, firefighters, and other “first responders,” as well as prosecutors and elected officials.

I have previously directed that guidance on the implementation of the USA PATRIOT Act, including the sharing of information with the intelligence community, be incorporated into the training of all Anti-Terrorism Coordinators within the U.S. Attorneys’ Offices. The first national training session of Anti-Terrorism Coordinators will occur November 13-15, 2001. This training will supplement the training already being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) with its Joint Terrorism Task Forces. The materials from the training session occurring on November 13-15 and existing FBI counter-terrorism training should be made more readily available to these task forces. Where appropriate, U.S. Attorneys’ facilities should be made available to their FBI counterparts to ensure that such training is more accessible to local law enforcement.

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I hereby direct that, by January 15, 2002, training similar to that of the Anti-Terrorism Coordinators be made available to local law enforcement participants in the Anti-Terrorism Task Forces either at the National Advocacy Training Center in Columbia, South Carolina, or through remote training at the 94 United States Attorneys' offices. Each district should determine whether chiefs of police or other local law enforcement officers should also receive such training.

As the President has made clear, the war on terror must be waged on all fronts, by all hands, and using every available weapon. The federal government will not fight this reign of terror alone. Every American must help us defend our nation against this common enemy. Every state, every county, and every municipality must join together to form a common defense against terrorism. I thank you for making more effective our national alliance against terror.