

## Office of Safety and Security Transit Security Newsletter

Volume No. 1

May 1997

### Welcome!

Welcome to what we hope will be the first of many issues of the Transit Security Newsletter. This new initiative of the Federal Transit Administration is the result of a suggestion from Dean Esserman, Chief of the MTA-Metro North Railroad Police, for a vehicle such as this which could be used by those of you in transit policing and security to air on a regular basis problems, new ideas, and anything else of note.

We invite those of you who receive this newsletter to forward to us each quarter information on the latest events at your agency which may aid others in their efforts to make transit safer and more secure for both riders and employees. We are interested in such items as training, reports, drills which you have scheduled which may be attended by security personnel from other jurisdictions, new projects and procedures, etc.

This initial edition is a sample. The format and headings are those that may be used in subsequent editions. Any articles submitted by you will replace this Welcome. However, as you will note, there are blanks under some headings, and we will add or delete headings to suit your collective needs. We want to have a document that will provide what you need and want in the way of information--we welcome your comments.

Any suggestions to improve this document or items for inclusion should be forwarded to us by June 15 for the next issue, and should contain your name and phone and/or fax number in order that your colleagues may contact you for additional information. Items should be in the form of bullets or very brief paragraphs. We will include articles of approximately 250 words. All such information should be sent to Edith Rodano, Office of Safety and Security, Federal Transit Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D. C. 20590 (202, 366-0191; FAX: 366-7951)

### Information Exchange

- A December 12, 1996, event caused the BART Transbay tunnel to be temporarily removed from full service. AC Transit added 50 bus trips to San Francisco and 40 within the east bay, tripling their normal passenger load. This has resulted in a plan that is being developed by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to coordinate incident response between AC Transit and BART. For further information contact AC Transit at 510, 891-4862.
- Metro North Railroad has ordered defibrillators which will be placed on its cart of emergency medical supplies in Grand Central Station. This is based at least in part on the fact that in the last year the American Heart Association has begun to push for much wider availability of defibrillator. AHA contends that

the devices should be placed about everywhere--factories, health clubs, apartment buildings, and even private homes--and be made available for use by a variety of nonmedical people such as security guards and doormen. For further information contact the MTA-Metro North Police at 212, 340-2720.

- The United Kingdom developed a paper for the recent meeting of land transportation security policy-makers and experts (see below). This paper describes their procedures for handling various threats to the security of their land transportation. The information is restricted, but copies are available for use by transit security personnel on a need-to-know basis by calling Edith Rodano at 202, 366-0191, FAX: 366-7951.

### Best Practices/Lessons Learned

None to report.

### Noteworthy Events

- On March 26, 1997, the Office of Intelligence and Security of the Office of the Secretary of Transportation sponsored a Counter-Terrorism Land Transportation Focus Group. This meeting was held in Arlington, Virginia. Participation included representatives of both transit and railroad police departments, fire, and police organizations, and various agencies of the U. S. Government. For further information contact Sherrie Anderson at 202, 366-6525.
- On April 21-22, 1997, as a follow-up to their meeting in November of 1996, land transportation security policy-makers and experts from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the U. S. met in Washington to review recent terrorist attacks against land transportation systems and discuss lessons learned from those attacks and discuss a range of potential future terrorist attacks, including attacks against the information systems upon which land transportation systems are increasingly dependent for efficient operation. For further information contact Sherrie Anderson at 202, 366-6525.

### Upcoming Meetings

5/4-7 American Public Transit Association Bus Operations and Technology Management Conference (the Police/Security Workshop will be held as an adjunct of this conference), Miami, FL (202, 898-4000).

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11/10-11 Safe Public Transport, Safe Cities: Perception, Concepts, Measures, Experience, Berlin, Germany, International Union of Public Transport (32 2 673 6200).

### Training

6/11 Public Safety Response to Terrorism, Williamsburg, VA (apply by 5/6/97), Virginia Department of Emergency Services (804, 674-2510)

7/16 Public Safety Response to Terrorism, Charlottesville, VA (apply by 6/10/97), Virginia Department of Emergency Services (804, 674-2510)

8/13 Public Safety Response to Terrorism, Roanoke, VA (apply by 7/8/97), Virginia Department of Emergency Services (804, 674-2510)

9/22-26 Transit System Security, Richland, WA, Federal Transit Administration/Transportation Safety Institute (405. 954-3682).

- For those interested in the above courses offered by the Virginia Department of Emergency Services and unable to attend the scheduled courses, materials for the course are available. For further information about these materials call the Virginia Department of Emergency Services at 804, 674-2510.
- The Pentagon has begun a training program designed to help 120 cities deal with the potential terrorist use of chemical, biological, or even nuclear weapons. Local police, firefighters, medics, and other emergency workers will learn to identify such deadly weapons and carry out any decontamination that might be required. Under this year's \$42.6 million program, the military will set up a multiservice "Chem-Bio Quick Response Force" of up to 500 people. Members of this force will travel around the country training local officials. For further information, contact Karen Quinn Doggett at 410, 671-3126.
- The Long Island Rail Road has recently completed a crisis intervention/ management training program. This effort is an outgrowth of the shooting on the Long Island Rail Road in December 1993. The video and printed materials are completed and should be available for distribution through the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center in the near future. For further information, contact Detective Charles Wendel at 718, 558-3401.

### Drills

None to report.

### Newly Available Reports

"Perspectives on Transit Security in the 90's: Strategies for Success", Final Report, June 1996, FTA-MA-26-7006-96-01, Federal Transit Administration, Office of Safety and Security (202, 366-2896).

"Transit Security in the 90's: Conference Summary", October 1996, FTA-MA-26-9009-97-01, Federal Transit Administration, Office of Safety and Security (202, 366-2896).

"Proceedings of the Seminar on Responding to the Consequences of Chemical and Biological Terrorism", July 11-14, 1995, sponsored by the U. S. Public Health Service, Office of Emergency Preparedness, Department of Health and Human Services, Rockville, MD, 20857 (301, 443-1167)

### Other

- On December 27, 1995, the Federal Transit Administration issued a rule requiring States to oversee the safety of rail fixed guideway systems within each State. This rule was implemented on January 1, 1997, and contains a requirement that, effective January 1, 1998, a security component must be included as part of this safety plan. For further information, contact Roy Field of the Office of Safety and Security at 202, 366-2896.

### Reminder

The Secretary of Transportation requests that you report to the Department of Transportation hotline any security incidents that result in death or injury or cause disruption to the operation of your transit system. During normal working hours, the number to call is 202, 366-0191; after hours, the number is 1, 800, 424-0201, or, within the Washington metropolitan area 202, 267-2675.