



UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE PRESS RELEASE

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U.S. SECRET SERVICE INVOLVEMENT IN SUPER BOWL XXXVI

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Super Bowl XXXVI, which is scheduled for Sunday, February 3, 2002 at the Superdome in New Orleans, Louisiana, has been designated as a National Special Security Event.

When an event is designated as a National Special Security Event (NSSE), the Secret Service is the lead agency for security design, planning and implementation. The goal of the cooperating federal, state and local agencies is to develop and implement, a seamless security plan that will create a safe and secure environment for the general public, event participants, our protectees, and other dignitaries.

Even though Super Bowl XXXVI has received NSSE designation, the counter-terrorism and anti-terrorism responsibilities of the Secret Service and other federal agencies do not supercede or alleviate the jurisdictional duties of local and state public safety officials. In fact, our roles are complimentary – public safety and counter-terrorism planning have to be carried out simultaneously.

Examples of previously designated NSSEs include the 2002 Winter Olympics, the United Nations General Assemblies, the 2001 Presidential Inauguration and the 2000 Democratic and Republican National Conventions. The Super Bowl will be the first major sporting event to occur as a designated NSSE.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: To request an interview with a Secret Service representative regarding security preparations for the Super Bowl, please contact the United States Secret Service Office of Government Liaison and Public Affairs at 202-406-5708.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON THE SECRET SERVICE AND SUPER BOWL XXXVI

Why is the Secret Service involved in the planning for the Super Bowl XXXVI and what specifically is your role?

The Secret Service has extensive experience in developing security plans for large events involving our protectees. Beginning in May 1998 with a Presidential Decision Directive, and passed into law in December 2000, the U.S. Secret Service is authorized to participate in the planning, implementation and coordination of security operations at events or gatherings of national significance as determined by the President. (*Title 18, USC § 3056*)

Presidential Decision Directive 62, a classified directive, deals, in part, with the coordination of Federal anti-terrorism and counter-terrorism assets for events of national interest, also known as National Special Security Events. Super Bowl XXXVI has been designated as such.

When an event is designated a National Special Security Event, the Secret Service assumes its mandated role as the lead agency for the design and implementation of the operational security plan. In order to accomplish this mission, the Secret Service forms partnerships with law enforcement and other security and public safety officials.

With regards to Super Bowl XXXVI, the Secret Service is working together with other local, state, and federal agencies.

Other federal agencies are also mandated by PDD-62 to oversee planning areas: the FBI is responsible for Crisis/Intelligence planning and FEMA is responsible for Consequence Management planning.

What kinds of security procedures with the Secret Service put in place at the Super Bowl?

Although we cannot discuss the methods and means we utilize to carry out our protective responsibilities, we can say there is a tremendous amount of advance planning and coordination in the areas of venue security, air space security, training, communications, and credentialing.

Certainly, we emphasize the importance of prevention and deterrence when we are developing an operational security plan, but we are also prepared to respond tactically to a threat if the situation dictates. As a result, we will employ a number of our specialized units during the course of this event.

How will this affect people attending the game?

Attendees, participants and members of the media going to the New Orleans Superdome can expect some visible and heightened security measures, including the use of magnetometers (metal detectors). However, the majority of the security enhancements utilized prior to and during the game will not be visible. Those attending the game should plan to arrive early to ensure appropriate time to pass through security checkpoints.

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