

# **PORT COMMUNITY INFORMATION BULLETIN**

**15-99**

## **DOMESTIC TERRORISM**

The US State Department recently issued a worldwide caution regarding the anniversary of the 1998 US Embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania. The FBI has also extended its February 25, 1999 terrorist threat advisory until October 14, 1999. This information bulletin is sent as a cautionary reminder to the transportation community that a heightened potential for terrorist attacks exists during the next few weeks and months.

Over the past month a higher than normal volume of threat information has been reported involving suspected terrorist operational planning and surveillance, including that by alleged supporters of Usama Bin Laden (UBL). Bin Laden's network is believed responsible for last year's embassy bombings, and has condemned the US Military presence in Kosovo, as well as the continued US Military presence in Saudi Arabia and other Islamic countries. More than 40 people associated with the UBL network have been detained or arrested in connection with the embassy bombings.

Currently, there is a strong belief by UBL supporters that the US is soon going to conduct retaliatory attacks against Bin Laden in Afghanistan. Other Islamic extremist groups have promised to avenge any US Military strike. While the UBL network maintains a strong presence in Africa, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia, it is capable of conducting attacks virtually anywhere, including the United States. Finally, there is growing concern that UBL and his supporters are attempting to acquire or may already have chemical and/or biological agents in preparation for terrorist use.

We continue to have had no specific information indicating terrorist attacks against US transportation interests. Nevertheless, periods after anniversary dates are generally recognized as a potential impetus for terrorist activity.

If you possess information that an act may, will or has taken place you may notify the National Terrorism Hotline directly at 1-800-424-8802. This is manned by the Coast Guard National Response Center in Washington, DC.

/s/

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