

Marine Safety Office Houston-Galveston
Marine Safety Unit Galveston
Vessel Traffic Service Houston

Port Security Information Bulletin
PSIB 27-03

General Threat Advisory
Continued Al-Qaeda Threats
November 22, 2003

This Port Security Information Bulletin is part of a joint advisory from The Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Terrorist Threat Integration Center. It is suggested that an increased level of security awareness is appropriate, based on recent terrorist attacks overseas and information suggesting Al-Qaeda continues to plan attacks against U.S. targets. However, based on current threat reporting, there is **NO CHANGE** to the Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS) level, or Maritime Security Condition (MARSEC) level.

There has been at least one major terrorist attack each week for several weeks. These terrorist bombings, along with the public proclamations regarding Al-Qaeda's intentions to target western interests, combine to heighten concerns that a threat against the U.S. homeland and U.S. interests abroad continues.

Despite Al-Qaeda's desire to repeat a mass casualty attack or strike major political and symbolic targets, there is **NO TACTICAL INFORMATION** that suggests any specific timing, targets, tactics or locations. Owners and Operators of, Chemical, and Petrochemical manufacturing, transportation and storage facilities, as well as cruise ship, ferry, tanker, and barge operators should remain alert throughout the holiday season. Public and private owners of Maritime Vessels and Waterfront facilities **MAY CONSIDER the following actions as applicable:**

1. Review vessel or facility security plans.
2. Monitor restricted areas.
3. Control access to vessels and facilities.
4. Monitor deck areas and areas surrounding the vessel.
5. Implement security lookouts and security patrols.

The U.S. Coast Guard reminds the maritime industry that they may also report information concerning suspicious activity to the National Response Center (NRC) via the NRC 24-hour telephone number at 1-800-424-8802.

RICHARD M. KASER
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port