



Advisory – Security Information for Charter, Air Cargo Corporate and General Aviation

August 10, 2006

On August 9, 2006, a significant terrorist plot was discovered in the United Kingdom (UK) which involved the possible use of explosive liquids by suicide bombers onboard aircraft flying to the United States. Accordingly the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has raised the threat level for commercial air travel from the UK to the United States to Threat Level Red (Severe) and for commercial (domestic and international) air travel to Threat Level Orange (High).

While there is no known threat to charter, air cargo, corporate and general aviation at this time, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) requests that these aircraft operators use an increased level of awareness concerning any suspicious activity particularly involving the use of liquids or gels (This includes all beverages, shampoo, sun tan lotion, creams, tooth paste, hair gel, and other items of similar consistency) in a suspicious manner onboard or in the vicinity of aircraft.

TSA reminds charter and air cargo operators to review the security measures contained in applicable security programs and security directives. Additionally for corporate and general aviation aircraft and airport owners and operators to review security measures in the TSA Information Publication, Security Guidelines for General Aviation Airports (available at http://www.tsa.gov/public/interapp/editorial/editorial_1113.xml), and the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association's Airport Watch Program materials (available at www.aopa.org/airportwatch). In addition, general aviation aircraft and airport owners and operators are encouraged to consider the following:

- Secure unattended aircraft to prevent unauthorized use.
- Verify the identification of crew and passengers prior to departure.
- Verify that baggage and cargo are known to the persons on board.
- Where identification systems are in place, encourage employees to wear proper identification and challenge persons not wearing proper identification.
- Direct increased vigilance to unknown pilots and/or clients for aircraft rental or charters – as well as unknown service/delivery personnel.
- Be alert/aware of and report persons masquerading as pilots, security personnel, emergency medical technicians, or other personnel using uniforms and/or vehicles as methods to gain access to aviation facilities or aircraft.
- Be alert/aware of and report aircraft with unusual or unauthorized modifications.
- Be alert/aware of and report persons loitering in the vicinity of aircraft or air operations areas – as well as persons loading unusual or unauthorized payload onto aircraft.
- Be alert/aware of and report persons who appear to be under stress or the control of other persons.
- Be alert/aware of and report persons whose identification appears altered or inconsistent.

The theft of any aircraft should be **immediately** reported to the appropriate authorities and the TSA General Aviation Hotline at 866-GASECUR (866-427-3287). In addition, persons should report any suspicious activity **immediately** to local law enforcement and the TSA General Aviation Hotline.