BJA Bureau of Justice Assistance

FBI Federal Bureau of Investigation

Communities Against Terrorism

Potential Indicators of Terrorist Activities Related to Hobby Shops

What Should I Consider Suspicious?

- Demonstrating unusual interest in remote-controlled aircraft.
- Demonstrating interest that does not seem genuine.
- Inquiring about remote controls and model aircraft payload capacity and maximum range.
- Inquiring about learning to fly expensive giant-scale aircraft without first learning to fly small-scale aircraft.
- Possessing little knowledge of activity for which the purchase is intended.
- Exhibiting unusual interest or specific interest in rocket motors or igniters.
- Demonstrating no interest or enthusiasm for the hobby or sport.
- Shoplifting or purchasing
  - Large quantity of model aircraft fuel.
  - Several large aircraft, engines, or transmitters.
  - Model rocket motor igniters without adequate knowledge.
  - Large quantity of paintball equipment and supplies with very little information about local paintball activities.
- Using cash for large transactions or a credit card in someone else's name.

It is important to remember that just because someone's speech, actions, beliefs, appearance, or way of life is different, it does not mean that he or she is suspicious.

What Should I Do?

Be part of the solution.

- ✓ Require valid ID from all new customers.
- ✓ Keep records of purchases.
- ✓ Talk to customers, ask questions, and listen to and observe their responses.
- ✓ Watch for people and actions that are out of place.
- ✓ Make note of suspicious statements, people, and/or vehicles.
- ✓ **If something seems wrong, notify law enforcement authorities.**

Do not jeopardize your safety or the safety of others.

Preventing terrorism is a community effort. By learning what to look for, **you** can make a positive contribution in the fight against terrorism. The **partnership between the community and law enforcement** is essential to the success of anti-terrorism efforts.

Some of the activities, taken individually, could be innocent and must be examined by law enforcement professionals in a larger context to determine whether there is a basis to investigate. The activities outlined on this handout are by no means all-inclusive but have been compiled from a review of terrorist events over several years.

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