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**TEXAS MILITARY FORCES  
J3 - PROTECTION BRANCH  
FORCE PROTECTION ALERT**



**SPECIAL THREAT ADVISORY - 20130719**

**Subject: Possible Terrorist Threat to Venues in Austin, TX in August**

1. Unconfirmed reporting from the Department of Homeland Security has raised the possibility of random terrorist attacks taking place in Austin, TX on or about 8-9 August. According to anonymous reporting, a group of trained terrorists are planning to conduct attacks in Austin, Texas and Pasadena, California at the conclusion of the Ramadan period. The Ramadan period lasts from 9 July to 8 August. According to reporting, the Austin group plans to plant back-pack style bombs on 6<sup>th</sup> Street on either 8 or 9 August. Additionally, the group plans to attack a school and theological seminary in the downtown Austin area and complete the attack with operations at the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport. The reporting also stated that if 8-9 August was not a viable option, then the group would conduct operations on 29 August (NFI). While none of this information can be verified at this time, Commanders are advised to review antiterrorism protection measures with their subordinates and to increase awareness of their subordinates during this period. There are currently no stated threats against TXMF facilities or specific TXMF personnel, but all members should maintain situational awareness when out in the community and report any suspicious activity immediately to local law enforcement personnel.
2. Focused Antiterrorism measures:
  - a. All commands, installations, facilities and armories must review threat assessments, risk assessments and random antiterrorism measures at all locations.
  - b. Review suspicious activity reporting procedures. (see Paragraphs 3 and 4)
  - c. Provide awareness training to all personnel. The focus should be on current activities, personal actions to lessen risks and exposure in public locations.
  - d. For armories or other facilities that are open to the public or who have tenant agencies within the facility, review usage policies. Ensure mitigation measures for access control are in place and review requirements for reporting suspicious activity and emergency response.
  - e. Disseminate guidance to all personnel to maintain situational awareness and report suspicious activity to local law enforcement and security personnel.
  - f. Disseminate guidance to all personnel to use caution when attending public gatherings at public venues.
  - g. Review procedures for off-installation activities/facilities to include movement for training or mobilization.
3. To enhance protection for TXMF personnel:
  - Watch for persons observing, photographing or videotaping an individual or unit building
  - Be suspicious of persons who have an undue curiosity about the security measures at a facility
  - Follow proper security procedures for allowing access to a facility
  - Review bomb threat procedures
  - Coordinate with local law enforcement for threat updates and to ensure quick response time
4. Disseminate this advisory to all units in the Austin area.
5. POC: LTC Rob Eason, AT Officer @ 512-782-5511 or CW2 Steven Johnston, Threat Analyst @ 512-782-5290.

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2013

## News Release

August 7, 2013

### Multiple Law Enforcement Agencies to Conduct Homeland Security Exercise in Austin

AUSTIN – The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) today announced the launch of a multi-agency homeland security exercise in the Austin area over the next few weeks to test and enhance coordinated response plans to scenarios involving terroristic threats or other critical incidents. Key agencies involved in the exercise include the Austin Police Department, Travis County Sheriff’s Office, the University of Texas Police Department, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

During the exercise, numerous law enforcement officials will be conducting exercise-related activities and may be seen mobilizing in and around the city of Austin.

“The public should not be alarmed if they observe unordinary law enforcement or first responder activity over the next few weeks in the Austin area,” said DPS Director Steven McCraw, who also serves as the Texas Homeland Security Director.

This homeland security exercise is an important proactive measure to ensure the various law enforcement agency participants are optimally prepared to protect the citizens of Texas from any type of homeland security threat or incident.

“Local, state and federal law enforcement entities work every day to combat crime and terrorism within Texas and beyond, and this proactive security exercise will further enhance our ability to protect our communities,” said Director McCraw. “We also want to remind Texas residents that the public plays a vital role in helping law enforcement protect our communities – and possibly save lives – by always remaining vigilant and reporting any suspicious or criminal activities they might witness.”

Residents who see something unusual are urged to simply speak up. Preparations for terrorist attacks are often seen but rarely reported. When in doubt, report the suspicious activity to your local law enforcement agency (by calling 9-1-1) or through iWATCH, which is a DPS website where citizen-sourced information is collected in an effort to help thwart illegal and terroristic endeavors. For more information on the iWATCH program or to submit a report, visit [www.iwatchtx.org](http://www.iwatchtx.org).

### (HQ 2013-095)



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