

IDENTIFYING SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

YOU encounter numerous peoples and situations while working, living, or recreating in our nations ports and waterways. During these encounters you could see something that might indicate a terrorist activity is being planned. Knowing how to recognize and respond to terrorism warning signs could enable you to prevent the next act of terrorism. The acronym SETS will help you understand the basic steps and indicators.

SURVEILLANCE

Surveillance involves photographing, videotaping, drawing and/or mapping, or other means of monitoring a potential target.

ELICITATION

Elicitation involves asking detailed questions in an attempt to gain knowledge of hidden or proprietary information. The following are examples of elicitation indicators:

- Listen carefully when engaged in a conversation with strangers. When they begin to ask or inquire about guarded information you may be involved in, you can suspect that elicitation is being used. Remember, the conversation may seem totally innocent.

- Avoid becoming a victim of elicitation by sharing proprietary, classified, or guarded information only with those that possess a need to know, without exception. If you suspect that you are being targeted, simply reply to the elicitor's questions with an inquiring question of your own.

TESTS OF SECURITY

A test of security is a tool used to develop timelines of authoritative response to a particular incident or occurrence. Staging an incident can be done to determine access vulnerability and/or establish a timeline for later use. Examples include (but are not limited to):

- Bomb threats
- Small fires (trash can/dumpster)
- Abandoned packages

A test of security is likely to occur in close proximity of a potential target, and it is an integral component in the plan to attack a potential target.

SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR

Suspicious behavior is displayed behavior that is out of place or out of character with the environment. What activity is the person(s) engaging in that is out of place with the immediate environment (their surroundings)? If the activity is out of character, then that activity may be considered suspicious.

People	Boats	Vehicles
Color (hair, eyes, clothing, skin, etc.)	Color (paint, markings, etc.)	Color (paint, markings, etc.)
Year (of birth, approximate age)	Year (of manufacture)	Year (of manufacture)
Make (race, ethnicity)	Make (make and model of boat)	Make (make and model of vehicle)
Body (body type, height, weight, build, etc.)	Body (length, runabout, cruiser, etc.)	Body (sedan, truck, SUV, van, 4-door, 2-door, etc.)
Attire (clothing description, dress, etc.)	Accessories (name, antennas, flags, pennants, inboard or outboard, etc.)	All others (dents, bumper stickers, rims, tinted glass, etc.)
Looks (hair, scars, tattoos, facial hair, etc.)	License/Registration number	License plate number
Sex (male, female)	State of registration	State of registration

CYMBALS

CYMBALS is an acronym that may help you remember descriptive information about people, boats, and vehicles.

REPORTING SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR:

- Never place yourself in harm's way.
- Never attempt to detain a person(s) you suspect to be displaying suspicious behavior.
- If you must approach; never speak in a threatening manner.
 - Be polite. Ask questions that are non-threatening (for example): Hello, may I help you?
 - Keep your conversation brief, remembering to not discuss any proprietary, guarded, and/or sensitive information.
- Call the America's Waterway Watch Hotline immediately, or if you feel a threat is imminent, dial 911 or contact the local Coast Guard unit via VHF Channel 16.
- Never use race or religion as an indicator of suspicious activity. Always rely on the idea that what you are observing is like a puzzle. If your instincts suspect suspicious activity, and you have observed a person's/group's actions that you can report to back up your instincts and feelings, then you can report your observations using reliable methods.

All reports should contain the "5 Ws and an H," which means you should be able to articulate a majority of the Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How of what's going on. This will be the line of questioning you can expect from law enforcement when submitting a report. If you do not have a majority of these questions covered, then articulate exactly what makes you feel suspicious of a person, group, or situation when reporting.

Remember, People Are Not Suspicious, Behavior Is!