



## HOBBY SHOPS

BusinessSafe is based on the idea that certain businesses and industries may be exploited by terrorists who portray themselves as honest customers seeking to purchase, lease or somehow appropriate certain materials, licenses and/or services to covertly further a terrorist plot.

The following are general indicators of potential terrorist planning or activities. Alone, each indicator can result from legitimate recreational or commercial activities or criminal activity not related to terrorism; however, multiple indicators combined with other information may possibly suggest a terrorist threat.

- Physical surveillance, which may include note taking or the use of binoculars, cameras or maps near key facilities.
- Attempts to gain sensitive information regarding key facilities or personnel through personal contact or by telephone, mail or e-mail.
- Attempts to penetrate or test physical security and response procedures at key facilities.
- Attempts to improperly acquire explosives, weapons, ammunition, dangerous chemicals, flight manuals or other materials which could be used in a terrorist attack.
- Suspicious or improper attempts to acquire official vehicles, uniforms, badges, access cards or identification for key facilities.
- Presence of individuals who do not appear to belong in the workplace, business establishment or near a key facility.
- Behavior which appears to denote planning for terrorist activity, such as mapping out routes, playing out scenarios, monitoring key facilities and timing traffic flow or signals.
- Stockpiling suspicious materials or abandoning potential containers for explosives (e.g., vehicles or suitcases).

The following examples of activity relating to Hobby Shops, though not fully inclusive, may be of **possible** concern to law enforcement:

- A cash purchase(s) of remote control gliders or model airplanes by individuals who do not appear to be hobbyists.
- Inquiries by individuals who are interested in modifying remote control gliders or model airplanes to enable them to carry a payload, especially installing still or video cameras.
- Separate purchases of parts or items (i.e., motor, fuselage, propellers etc.) associated with the building of remote control gliders or model airplanes.
- A request to purchase gyro systems with digital readouts for remote controlled airplanes. (These are often used by the military in remote drones. These systems allow an airplane to continue on a pre-defined course, even if it loses radio contact with the transmitter.)

- Unusual purchases of chemicals, solvents, propellants, rocket motors, igniters and radio-control equipment associated with various hobbies.
- Unusual inquiries into Kite Aerial Photography, or KAP, which is an obscure hobby that could be used to conduct surveillance on embassies, government buildings, or other targets, without attracting suspicion. A recent issue of the magazine Popular Science provides step-by-step instructions for the construction of a low cost system that could be used as an unobtrusive surveillance platform. Using a \$60 digital camera and a \$1.50 microchip, available at any electronics hobby store, one can modify the camera to take a picture every second until the memory card is full. Kite Aerial Photography could be used in most high-density urban settings.

The following examples of activity relating to the sale and or distribution of Wristwatches with an altimeter function or a butane lighter, though not fully inclusive, may be of possible concern to law enforcement:

- Any unusual question or inquiry regarding the purchase or use of wristwatches with an altimeter function.
- Any unusual question or inquiry regarding the highest altitude capable of being determined with the use of a wristwatch equipped with an altimeter or other altimeter device.
- Any unusual question or inquiry regarding the purchase or use of wristwatches equipped with a butane lighter.
- Any unusual question or inquiry regarding the purchase or use of a modified or camouflaged butane lighter capable of being undetected when passing through passenger screening efforts of any aviation facility.

Your impressions and assessment based upon your professional business experience are extremely valuable and should help guide you in determining if a customer request, a fact pattern, or set of circumstances is unusual.

Please remember that the conduct of an individual will not necessarily be criminal in nature. Suspicious incidents should be reported immediately to your local law enforcement agency, Crime Stoppers, or your regional FDLE office. You may also email a tip regarding a suspicious incident utilizing the link on the [BusinessSafe homepage](#).

For all emergencies, call "911."