



Washington Regional Threat and Analysis Center

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Special Event Assessment

“A Capitol Fourth” - Independence Day Parade, Concert & Fireworks

Constitution Avenue, NW
U.S. Capitol – West Lawn
The National Mall
Washington, D.C

July 4, 2009



EFFECTIVE DATE
26 June 2009

SERIES NUMBER
2009-335

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(U) PURPOSE

(U//FOUO) The purpose of the Washington Regional Threat and Analysis Center (WRTAC) assessment is to convey potential threat to the 2009 “A Capitol Fourth” - Independence Day Parade, Concert and Fireworks. The information, in keeping with the WRTAC mission, is designed to afford law enforcement, homeland security and policy making officials with terrorism threat intelligence of relevance to the scheduled events and maintaining a safe and secure event environment.

(U) KEY FINDINGS

- (U//FOUO) The WRTAC possesses no credible intelligence to indicate any threats targeting the 2009 “A Capitol Fourth” - Independence Day Parade, Concert and Fireworks. However, due to the media attention and the large number of people expected to attend, it makes this event a potential target.
- (U//FOUO) The symbolic nature of the 2009 “A Capitol Fourth” - Independence Day Parade, Concert and Fireworks and the anticipated attendance of large crowds along Constitution Avenue, NW, at the US Capitol and on the National Mall make these events an attractive target for al-Qa'ida or other extremist terrorist groups, who sympathize with the “international jihad agenda,” trying to inflict mass casualties.
- (U//FOUO) There has been no credible intelligence received to indicate that domestic terrorist groups constitute a threat to the 2009 “A Capitol Fourth” - Independence Day Parade, Concert and Fireworks.
- (U//FOUO) Individuals motivated by political, ideological, social, or religious issues may take advantage of such a high profile event to cause harm and disrupt the events.

(U) THREAT - LOW

(U//FOUO) International terrorists and other extremist groups that may sympathize with the jihad movement remain the most serious threat to the United State and to US interests. These groups have strived to attack Western symbolic targets to inflict mass casualties and severe economic damage. Most of these terrorists in the United States tend to engage in non-operational activities that are usually not lethal or threatening.

- (U//FOUO) In addition, individuals motivated by political, ideological, social, or religious issues and operating independent of centralized group structure (such as lone wolves) may use the 2009 “A Capitol Fourth” - Independence Day Parade, Concert and Fireworks as a means to inflict economic and psychological damage on US citizens.

There are no specific threats, planned hostile activities or terrorist related incidents anticipated during the 2009 “A Capitol Fourth” - Independence Day Parade, Concert and Fireworks.

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(U//FOUO) **Domestic Terrorist Threat (DTT) - LOW:** The DTT to the 2009 “A Capitol Fourth” - Independence Day Parade, Concert and Fireworks is assessed as Low. At this time there is no intelligence that indicates that any groups are targeting the 2009 “A Capitol Fourth” - Independence Day Parade, Concert and Fireworks with terrorist violence as a means of advancing their causes. Domestic terrorist groups have not targeted previous “A Capitol Fourth” - Independence Day Parades, Concerts and Fireworks in the past.

(U//FOUO) **International Terrorist Threat (ITT) – LOW:** The ITT to the 2009 “A Capitol Fourth” - Independence Day Parade, Concert and Fireworks as Low. Intelligence indicates that the al-Qa’ida terrorist network maintains an ongoing interest in attacking soft or lightly secured targets in the United States. It should be noted that intelligence indicates that various methods of attack could be employed, to include vehicle borne improvised explosive devices, suicide bombers and improvised explosive devices. Currently there is no specific intelligence that indicates that the 2009 “A Capitol Fourth” - Independence Day Parade, Concert and Fireworks are being specifically targeted by an international terrorist organization. International terrorist groups have not targeted previous “A Capitol Fourth” - Independence Day Parades, Concerts and Fireworks in the past.

- (U//FOUO) **WRTAC Comment:** The Washington, DC area has been the target of terrorist attacks in the past, as well as being attacked. Intelligence continues to indicate that the Washington, DC area remains a target of attack and is possibly still under surveillance for planned attacks.

(U//FOUO) **Civil Disobedience (CD) - LOW:** The potential for CD and ensuing violent activity directed at the 2009 “A Capitol Fourth” - Independence Day Parade, Concert and Fireworks is assessed as Low.

(U) EVENT OVERVIEW

There are a number of different events that are associated with Fourth of July celebrations. However, the three most notable events that will draw the largest crowds are the parade, concert and fireworks. The Independence Day Parade will be held on Saturday, July 4, 2009, starting at 1145 hours. The parade will step off at the corner of Constitution Avenue and 7th Streets, NW. It will proceed west down Constitution, past the White House, ending at 17th Street, NW. It is anticipated that crowd sizes will be in excess of 300,000 spectators.



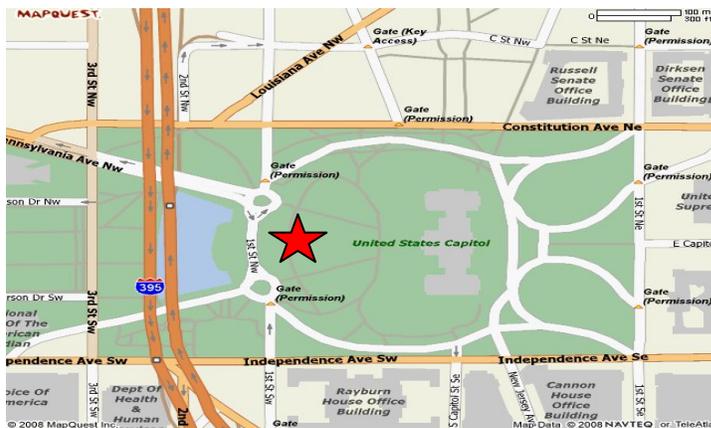
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- Comment: For additional information regarding the parade refer to the following link:
<http://www.july4thparade.com/>

The Independence Day Concert will be held on Saturday, July 4, 2009, from 2000 until 2130 hours on the West Front grassy area of the United States Capitol and is anticipated to draw approximately 20,000 spectators. Numerous high profile officials are expected to attend to include various Members of Congress. This event features numerous celebrities, actors, and musical performances, including the National Symphony Orchestra. National media will cover this event and PBS will broadcast the concert live.

- Comment: On Friday, July 3, 2009, a full dress rehearsal has been scheduled for this event. The Washington Post has, in the past, advised its readers to attend the dress rehearsal due to its likeness to the feature presentation on the following day. Up to 8,000 spectators can be expected to attend the dress rehearsal.



- Comment: For additional information regarding the concert refer to the following link:
<http://www.pbs.org/capitolfourth/concert.html>

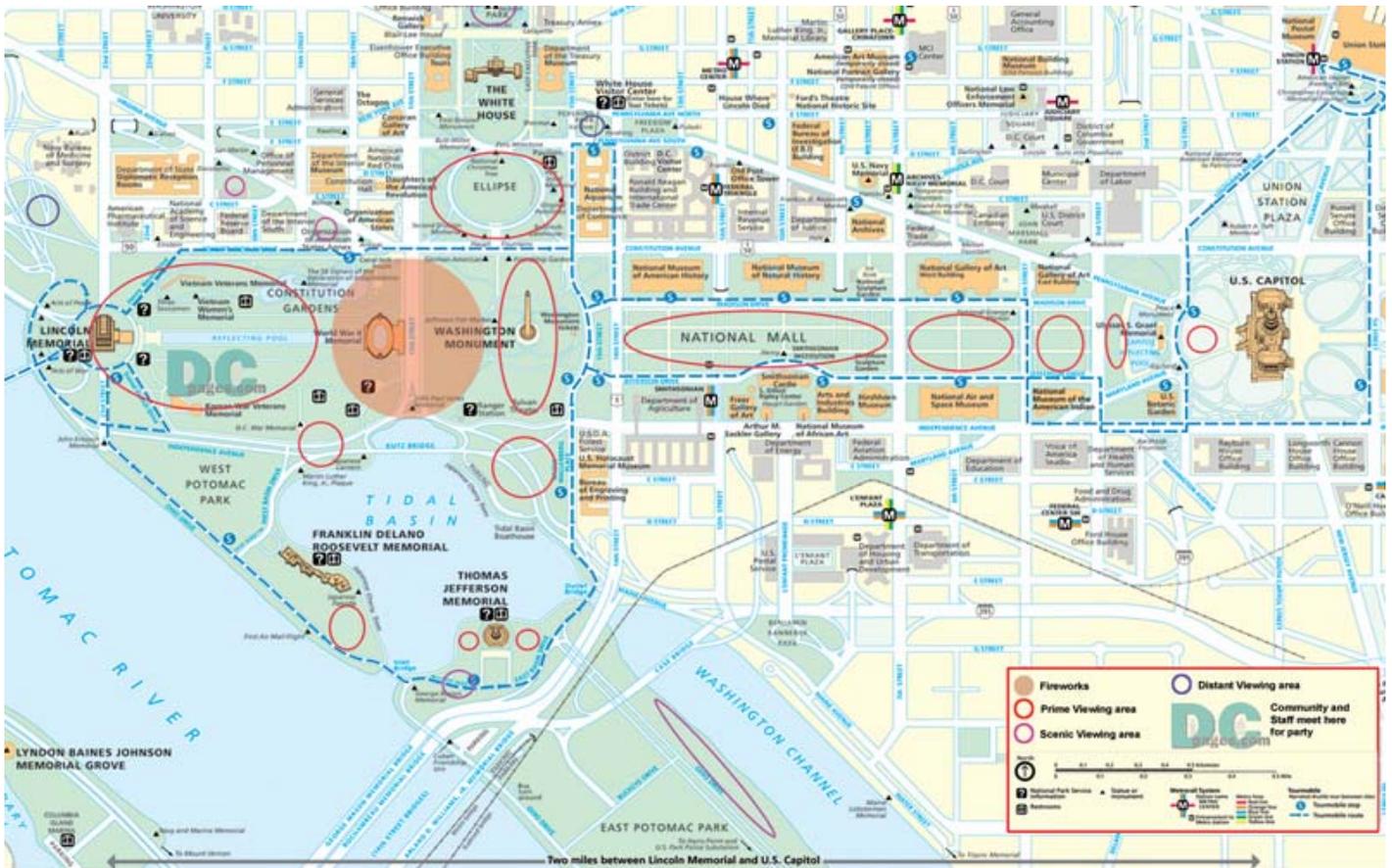
The Independence Day Fireworks will be held on Saturday, July 4, 2009, from 2115 until approximately 2135 hours. The fireworks are launched from the east end of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool and illuminate the sky over the Washington Monument. It is anticipated to draw approximately 300,000 spectators on the National Mall.



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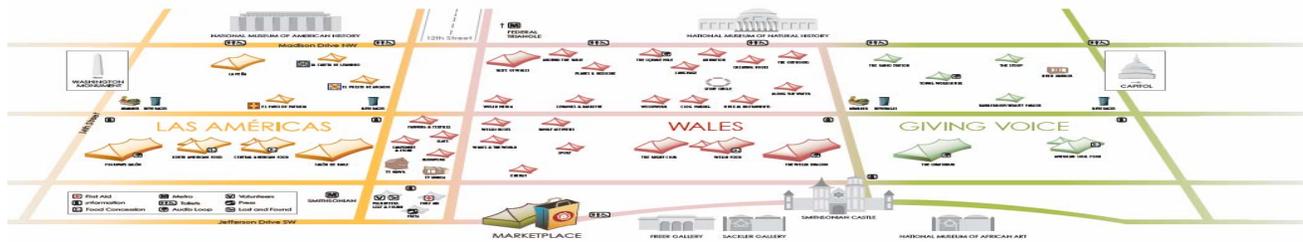
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- Comment: For the various areas that are considered ideal for viewing the fireworks refer to the below map



- Comment: For a listing of events during the Independence Day holiday refer to: <http://dc.about.com/od/specialevents/a/4thofJuly.htm>

The 43rd Annual Smithsonian Folk life Festival will be occurring on the National Mall between 7th and 14th Streets, near the Smithsonian museums from Wednesday, July 1, 2009 through Sunday, July 5, 2009. It is open to the public from 1100 hours to 1730 hours daily. Historically this event has been extremely popular with many tourists and it can be expected that extremely large crowds will be in attendance. The map provides a layout of the festival and its various venues.



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- Comment: For additional information regarding the folk life festival refer to the following link: <http://www.festival.si.edu/>

(U) PROTESTS / DEMONSTRATIONS

(U//FOUO) The potential for Protests / Demonstrations directed at the 2009 “A Capitol Fourth” - Independence Day Parade, Concert and Fireworks is assessed as **LOW**.

At the time of this report, there is only one known demonstration that is planned by an organization called “Taxed Enough Already”. The demonstration is on Saturday, July 4th, 2009 at John Marshall Park (501 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW) from 1200 – 1700 hours, estimated participants are still unknown at this time.

- Note: The demonstration is the same time as the parade and in the same general vicinity of it, approximately two (2) blocks separate the events. There is no intelligence to indicate that the demonstrators are planning on disrupting the parade however it should be considered for operational planning purposes.
- Comment: For additional information regarding this demonstration refer to the following link: <http://www.teapartyday.com/>

In April 2009 there was an Internet video posting by an individual calling himself “Pale Horse” for the Ohio Militia calling for “A Million Armed Militia Members March” on Washington, D.C on Saturday, July 4, 2009. The posting claims “A peaceful demonstration. No shooting, no one gets hurt. Just a demonstration, the only difference from any typical demonstration is we will all be armed.”

- Comment: It should be noted that the Ohio Militia has since taken down the video posting from its YouTube page. At the time of this report, there has been no formal application for a permit to demonstrate by the Ohio Militia. This is being mentioned for investigative and operational planning purposes.
- Comment: For additional information regarding this Internet video posting refer to the following link: <http://washingtonindependent.com/39893/the-million-militia-man-march>

Although not thought to be a concern, it however is worth mentioning that the 46th Annual Convention of the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) is scheduled during the July 4th events. The convention is scheduled for July 3 – 6, 2009 at the Washington DC Convention Center.

- Comment: It should be noted that per the WRTAC DHS representative, many of the individuals that are listed as speakers are listed in the U.S. Government TIDE (Terrorist Identities Datamart Environment)

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- Comment: For additional information regarding this conference refer to the following link: <http://www.isna.net/Conferences/pages/Annual-Convention.aspx>

(U) SCENARIOS OF CONCERN

(U) Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Devices (VBIED)

(U//FOUO) VBIED attacks on the Independence Day Parade, Concert or Fireworks could inflict immediate casualties and destruction, create fear and panic among survivors, paralyze businesses in the affected area, and potentially lead organizers to adjourn or cancel the events. The large media presence, at such a high-profile event would ensure that an attack would attract the extensive global attention that terrorists seek.

- (U//FOUO) VBIEDs are a favorite instrument for terrorist groups because they can act as their own delivery mechanism and can carry a sizable quantity of explosives without raising suspicion.
- (U//FOUO) The preferred method of attack cited in al-Qa'ida casing reports uncovered in 2004 was a VBIED loaded into a limousine or a service or delivery truck to discourage any undue attention or suspicion on the part of security personnel. The casing report recommended employing a VBIED in a limousine parked in a VIP garage under the target building, which would be accessed either by deception or by compromising the security personnel. The report describes building entrances, underground parking garages, and loading docks as possible points of attack, as well as possible escape routes.

(U) Suicide Bombers

(U//FOUO) Suicide bombings conducted either by vehicle or on foot, are a preferred terrorist tactic because the bomber controls the location, method of delivery, and timing. Many facilities such as public places are inherently vulnerable to suicide bombing attacks, and permanent physical defenses are often impractical to establish or maintain. The terrorist's latitude in determining and adjusting an attack up to the point of detonation further complicates countermeasures. These factors place a premium on disciplined security measures and alertness by those charged with implementing them.

- (U//FOUO) Despite the frequency of suicide bombings abroad, a predictable profile of the bombers is lacking. Suicide bombings generally are carried out by motivated, committed recruits who have the mental discipline to accomplish the operation. Most suicide bombers have been males aged 16 to 35, but some terrorist organizations most notably in Chechnya, the Palestinian territories, and Sri Lanka have used females to circumvent detection regimes that focus on male operatives.

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- (U//FOUO) Organizations employing suicide bombers routinely change tactics to thwart security measures. In Iraq some suicide bombers are sent on foot to attack targets that are well protected against car bombs. Another tactic is to attack in two stages, with a lead bomber breaching security, followed by a second operative who then attempts to attack the primary target.
- (U//FOUO) **Comment: Public Mass Transportation:** Due to the Independence Day celebration, it is anticipated that there will be an increase of users, mainly the numerous tourists that will be visiting the city for the holiday events. Many of these tourists will be using the services of the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority mainly the Metro Subway system to attend the various Independence Day events throughout the city. At this time there is no intelligence that indicates that any groups are targeting the transit system during the various Independence Day events. However, due to the large crowds it does make the metro transit system an ideal target during these events.

(U//FOUO) On July 7, 2005, there were a series of coordinated terrorist bomb blasts that hit London's public transport system during the morning rush hour. At 8:50 a.m., three bombs exploded within fifty seconds of each other on three London Underground trains. A fourth bomb exploded on a bus nearly an hour later at 9:47 a.m. in Tavistock Square. The bombings killed 52 commuters and the four suicide bombers, injured 700, and caused disruption of the city's transport system (severely for the first day) and the country's mobile telecommunications infrastructure.

(U//FOUO) On March 11, 2004, in Spain, during the peak of the Madrid rush hour, ten explosions occurred aboard four commuter trains. All the affected trains were traveling on the same line and in the same direction in Madrid. It was later reported that thirteen improvised explosive devices (IEDs) had been placed on the trains. Bomb-disposal teams arriving at the scenes of the explosions detonated two of the remaining three IEDs in controlled explosions, but the third was not found until later in the evening, having been stored inadvertently with luggage taken from one of the trains. These attacks resulted in killing more than 198 people and wounding over 600 people.

(U) Lone Wolf

(U//FOUO) The possibility of a lone wolf terrorist attacking the 2009 "A Capitol Fourth" - Independence Day Parade, Concert and Fireworks always remains a possibility. Although these types of would-be attackers are tougher to identify because they do not belong to any formalized group and therefore may have flown under the radar of law enforcement and intelligence officials, they will most likely make mistakes when planning an operation due to their lack of formal discipline and/or lack of formal terrorist training. Such an attack may be unsophisticated, but deadly nonetheless. Due to a lack of discipline, a lone wolf may act on the spur of the moment, which can either lead to a slip-up that allows them to get caught, or leads to very deadly consequences because they were not suspected. Officers should question anyone that:

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- Has a nervous or agitated appearance. Subject may be pacing or appear to be chanting, reciting religious passages, or talking to himself, perhaps either trying to talk himself into, or out of, his mission
- Wearing clothes considered too bulky for the weather in order to hide an explosive belt or vest, or subject may cling tightly to a backpack or other concealment vessel
- Subject may appear to be repeatedly squeezing one hand as if getting ready to press a trigger for a detonator
- Appears to be acting completely unlike everyone else around him/her. Examples might include: Something funny is occurring but the subject doesn't react or a show is taking place but the subject isn't watching.

(U) Use of Aircraft as a Weapon

(U//FOUO) Terrorists intent on conducting a suicide aircraft hijacking in order to use the aircraft as a weapon have a number of options at their disposal. Alternatives include the suicide hijacking of a U.S.-bound commercial airliner arriving from outside U.S. borders, or an international flight transiting U.S. airspace, but not scheduled to land in the United States. An al-Qa'ida plot to blow up Airliners enroute from Europe to the United States was foiled in the summer of 2006. Such a plot would allow terrorists to take advantage of the perceived less-stringent security procedures at certain foreign airports. Airspace restrictions over Washington, D.C. will mitigate any airborne threat.

(U) Attempts to Penetrate Secured Areas and Insider Threats

(U//FOUO) Given the symbolic nature of the 2008 "A Capitol Fourth" - Independence Day Parade, Concert and Fireworks, law enforcement officials must be on guard against unauthorized attempts to penetrate secured areas, most likely using fake or stolen license plates, credentials, or badges.

- (U//FOUO) In June 2007 the FBI seized two sets of fictitious Department of State diplomatic license plates, credentials, and badges in Las Vegas, NV. Although these items have not been linked to any specific domestic terrorist group, phrases and wording found on the fictitious credentials are commonly used by members of local and national sovereign citizen and anti-government militia groups.
- (U//OUO) 3-13-09 Theft of MPD Property: Woodbridge, VA
MPD Third District advised that an officer's vehicle was stolen from her home in Woodbridge, VA. The vehicle contained her MPD badge, bullet proof vest, name tag, police shirt, raincoat and a police jacket.
- (U//FOUO) On 10 March 2009 a member of the Naval District Washington (NDW) Police Department had his residence burglarized in the Temple Hills area of Prince Georges County, MD. Prince Georges County Police was notified that during the burglary thieves took one police badge, example pictured (Badge# 124), one set of ballistic panels for a "First Choice Armor" class IIIA vest, and two complete sets of Class "B" long sleeve uniforms with Naval

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District Washington Police insignia and Corporal stripes on both sleeves. Approximate size of uniforms: pants 34" waist, shirt M long.

- (U//FOUO) An employee of Metro Transit Police as a Recruit, reports she lost 5 pairs of Metro Transit Police blue BDU pants, 5 BDU blue shirts, a blue raincoat and a hat. All items had the Metro Transit Police Patch on them, last seen 3/7/09.
- Metropolitan Police Department reports that the subject drove up to the listed location of the Command Post of the Metro Train accident that occurred on June 22, 2009 in Washington, DC in a brown 2006 Jeep Commander with Maryland registration 352M-740, VIN # 1J8HG58N56C305716 (Listed to the subject) with blue emergency lights flashing light on the front dash. The subject was confronted by officers on the scene after he crossed the crime scene tape, the subject who was wearing a Defense Protective Services badge hanging around his neck, stated he was sent by the Pentagon Police but, could not produce credentials. Pentagon Force Protection was notified and advised that the subject was not employed with them. The subject was subsequently arrested without incident for Falsely Identifying Himself as a Police Officer. No weapons were located. (Subject Information: WERBIN, Seth Richard W/M, DOB: 08/18/65 of 10600 Meadowhill Road, Silver Spring, MD., described as 6'0", 115-120lbs., gray hair, light complexion)

Sources:

US Capitol Police

DHS-FBI Joint Assessment's: Scenarios of Concern

National Capital Regional Intelligence Center: July 4th Threat Assessment

Information Cutoff: 26 June 2009 @ 1100 Hours

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