

# ALPA SECURITY ALERT 2011-1

## **SUBJECT: United Kingdom Raises Transportation Security Threat Level**

### **BACKGROUND:**

On January 6, 2011, British security officials raised the terrorism threat level for civil aviation and transportation hubs in the London area from "substantial" to "severe," the second-highest level on a five-level scale. While "substantial" indicates the "strong possibility" of an attack, the "severe" level is based upon the belief that a terrorist attack is "highly likely." The British Department for Transport has reportedly attributed the increased threat level to "credible" indications that al-Qaeda "may be considering an attack against a UK airport or aviation sector target." The heightened threat level includes airports and London train and subway stations.

ALPA contacts with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and Transport Canada (TC) have established no direct linkage between current events in the UK and ongoing threat assessments in the US and Canada.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

In order for pilots to maximize their personal safety and security while abroad, the following practices are recommended:

- Conduct comprehensive crew briefings. Compare observations or concerns and take appropriate cautionary or defensive actions.
- Blend into your surroundings. Avoid wearing or displaying items associated with the U.S. or Canada in order to lessen the chances for confrontation.
- Travel in groups. Do not frequent service provider establishments (e.g., food, beverage, etc.) known to attract U.S. or Canadian citizens or other foreign national tourists.
- Know how to maintain contact with fellow crewmembers. Identify prearranged meeting sites in case crewmembers become separated and are unable to communicate.
- Avoid large gatherings of people and demonstrations, and exercise caution if you should inadvertently find yourself in one's vicinity. Demonstrations that are intended to be peaceful can quickly turn confrontational and escalate into violence.
- Identify and seek guidance from your ALPA MEC security committee point of contact, as necessary.
- Know how to contact your company's corporate security office, operations control center and the local station manager. Make certain you have a reliable way of communicating with them in emergency circumstances.

- Know how to contact local law enforcement or other appropriate security personnel at foreign destinations.
- Stay abreast of world events, particularly related to the foreign destinations you will visit.
- Review specific travel information/advisories provided by your airline.
- Review the U.S. State Department's **website** (<http://www.state.gov/travel/>) for country/city specific threat information or advisories.
- Review Canada's Foreign Affairs and International Trade **website** ([http://www.voyage.gc.ca/countries\\_pays/updates\\_mise-a-jour-eng.asp](http://www.voyage.gc.ca/countries_pays/updates_mise-a-jour-eng.asp)) for country/city specific threat information or advisories.
- Consult ALPA's on-line *International Directory* for U.S. and Canadian Embassies and Consulates contact information. Please visit the **Crewroom** portal (<http://crewroom.alpa.org/?tabid=104>) of the ALPA website.
- Embassy and Consulate contact information is also available at the U.S. State Department and Canadian Foreign Affairs and International Trade websites, the links for which are provided in preceding bullets. Please access these resources to identify addresses and telephone numbers that can be used in the event of an emergency.
- Utilize the *World Watch* tool found on the National Security Committee (NSC) portal of the ALPA website for conditions in domestic or foreign destinations, including information on current threats, maps, and other advisories. To do so, please visit the **Crewroom** portal (<http://crewroom.alpa.org/?tabid=104>) of the website); locate the "Committees" tab at the top of the page and choose "National Security Committee."

Please contact the ALPA Engineering & Air Safety Department at 800-424-2470 with any questions.

Thank you.

Captain Robb Powers  
 Chairman  
 National Security Committee