



TERROR ALERT CODES, MCAC & ATAC COORDINATION

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I. BACKGROUND

A. Maryland Coordination & Analysis Center (MCAC)

The Maryland Coordination & Analysis Center (MCAC) is the first information-sharing center in the nation that collects and analyzes data with police, National Guard, fire, emergency management, health, transportation and emergency medical personnel from the federal, state and local levels. MCAC is overseen by the Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council (ATAC), led by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Maryland, which brings together professionals from a variety of disciplines at all levels of government.

B. Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council (ATAC)

The Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council (ATAC) coordinates activities, develops policy and implements strategic plans to combat terrorism in Maryland. It has representation from all levels of government and the private sector. Specifically, ATAC serves to (1) facilitate information sharing among its members; (2) prevent and disrupt terrorism activity; (3) assist in preparing for and responding to any future terrorist incidents; and (4) provide relevant training. Over 225 agencies are represented on ATAC and it is led by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Maryland.

C. Terrorist Screening Center (TSC)

The Terrorist Screening Center (TSC) was established by Homeland Security Presidential Directive 6, which directed that a center be established to consolidate the government's approach to terrorism screening and to provide information in screening processes. The TSC began operations on December 1, 2003.

The Terrorist Screening Center (TSC) maintains a consolidated database of the names and other identifying information for all known or suspected terrorists, known as the Terrorist Screening Database (TSDB).

The TSC has made Terrorist Identities Information accessible through the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) system to law enforcement officers, including 870,000 state and local officers nationwide, adding those resources to the fight against terrorism.

D. Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF)

The Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) is a full-time, collaborative federal, state and local law enforcement entity that investigates terrorism activity and individuals who may be engaged in support of terrorists with the goal of preventing and/or aggressively disrupting that activity and, when possible, bringing federal prosecutions. The intelligence community has representatives assigned to the JTTF as well in order to facilitate the two-way flow of information between the JTTF and the intelligence community. The MCAC works in conjunction with the JTTF.

II. POLICY

The Department of Homeland Security has advised Maryland Law Enforcement Agencies of a national resource named the Terrorist Screening Center (TSC). The TSC is an entity that combines databases from multiple federal agencies in law enforcement and homeland security. The TSC will be of significant use in those instances when there is no terrorism related suspicion and a routine warrant check reveals a possible connection automatically through the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) for individuals who have been identified on the Terrorist Screening List (TSL).

The following protocol will be used for all NCIC inquiries which indicated a Terrorist Screening List hit.

III. HANDLING CODES

The Terrorist Screening Center has identified potential terrorist suspects by labeling them with various codes that are then attached to the NCIC response which is sent to requesting law enforcement agencies. These codes (1-3) will be found on the NCIC response. Comments and contact information may also be found that will further direct the officer's response to the identified subject.

A. Contacting Teletype

Officers will radio teletype with a subject's information or contact teletype following a Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) hit response. Teletype personnel will screen this information through the NCIC. If the subject's identification results in TSC match, communications may receive any one of three Handling Codes from the TSC. Communications will contact the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC) which should provide further instructions as to the disposition of any person and/or vehicle associated with the inquiry in accordance with TSC guidelines.

B. Handling Codes (Last updated by TSC on 6/19/2008)

Do not alert the individual of the following warnings.

1. Code 1

This individual is associated with terrorism and is the subject of an arrest warrant, although the warrant may not be retrievable via the searched identifiers known by the officer. If an arrest warrant for the individual is returned in the search of NCIC, detain the individual pursuant to the department's procedures for handling an outstanding warrant. If an arrest warrant for the individual is not returned, use caution and immediately contact the TSC by way of the MCAC for further direction – Watch Desk (1-800-492-TIPS).

Procedure

1. Anne Arundel County Police officers who encounter individuals listed by the TSC as a "Code 1" will arrest and detain the individual pursuant to department guidelines associated with outstanding warrants.
2. Under no circumstances will the individual be advised that they may be on a terrorist watch list.
3. MCAC will immediately be notified and members of the JTTF will respond to the scene.
4. An incident report must be completed detailing the specifics of the encounter. A copy of the incident report will be sent to the Intelligence/Executive Protection Unit.

2. Code 2

This individual is of investigative interest to law enforcement regarding association with terrorism and there may be a detainer available from the Department of Homeland Security for this individual.

Procedure

1. Anne Arundel County Police officers who encounter individuals listed by the TSC as a "Code 2" will detain the individual for a reasonable period of time to conduct reasonable investigation pertaining to the initial legally authorized encounter.
2. Under no circumstances will the individual be advised that they may be on a terrorist watch list.
3. MCAC will immediately be notified and members of the JTTF may respond to the scene.

4. An incident report must be completed detailing the specifics of the encounter. A copy of the incident report will be sent to the Intelligence/Executive Protection Unit.

3. Code 3

Attempt to obtain sufficient identifying information during the encounter, without otherwise extending the scope or duration of the encounter, to assist the TSC in determining whether or not the name or identifier (s) queried belongs to an individual identified as having possible ties with terrorism.

Procedure

1. Anne Arundel County Police officers who encounter individuals listed by the TSC as a “Code 3” will immediately notify the MCAC – WATCH Desk.
2. Under no circumstances will the individual be advised that they may be on a terrorist watch list.
3. Officers will question the subject based on instructions received by the MCAC and TSC.
4. Do not detain or arrest the subject unless there is evidence of a violation of laws that would allow for such detention or arrest.
5. An incident report must be completed detailing the specifics of the encounter. A copy of the incident report will be sent to the Intelligence/Executive Protection Unit.

IV. ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES

An officer will immediately request back-up when investigating a “code hit” and the on-duty Shift Supervisor will respond to the scene.

V. PROPONENT UNIT: Homeland Security Section.

VI. CANCELLATION: None.