

PROTECTING DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FACILITIES FROM TERRORIST AND MALEVOLENT ACTS

The task of providing protection for DOE sites and facilities has become increasingly complex because of the rapid political, social, economic, and technological changes that are taking place today. Recent events have made clear that we must significantly renew our efforts to counter terrorism and prepare for its consequences. The purposes of this document are: to discuss a general concept of operations for safeguards and security response to threat levels, Security Conditions (SECONs), and corresponding proactive measures, and to review general safeguards and security contingency and emergency response actions.

1. THREAT INDICATORS. While the DOE Design Basis Threat provides specific description of threats that all components of the safeguards and security system must be capable of defeating, analysis of terrorism should be an ongoing process. Although each analysis relies on information included in previous assessments, judgments with respect to threats to Federal and DOE-affiliated personnel, facilities, and assets begin anew with each analysis. No formal escalation ladder of terrorist threat level exists; terrorist threat level designations for specific sites/facilities are applied on the basis of current information and analysis.

Threat analysis is a dynamic process because the threat and the countermeasures used to combat the threat are constantly changing. To keep up with possible changes in the threat, security professionals should develop a predetermined list of general and specific threat indicators. A threat indicator is a condition that when present increases the possibility of a terrorist incident. Seldom does one single indicator suggest that the threat is imminent, but when a number of indicators are present, the level of concern should increase correspondingly.

Threat indicators should be revised according to site/facility situations and needs. They should be reviewed at least every 6 months or if a significant incident or change in conditions indicates that the threat level is increasing or decreasing. Following are examples of threat indicators that can be used to develop a site/facility-specific assessment:

- international incidents or indicators against U.S. interests, personnel, or facilities;
- domestic (U.S.) incidents or indicators against Federal or state interests, country-wide;
- local incidents or indicators directed against Federal or DOE interests,
- and specific targeting of DOE personnel, facilities, or materials.

2. SECURITY CONDITIONS. The Security Conditions (SECONs) system describes a progressive level of common sense protective measures that may be implemented in response to a malevolent or terrorist threat to any or all DOE facilities, assets, and personnel. The purpose of the SECON system is to establish standardized protective measures for a wide range of threats and to help disseminate appropriate, timely, and

standardized information for the coordination and support of DOE crisis or contingency activities. Once one of the five SECON levels is declared, the associated protective measures should be implemented, to the extent they apply to the individual site or facility, as soon as possible. Sites/facilities should coordinate SECON status through their Office of Safeguards and Security, Field Operations, Division or Office of Defense Nuclear Security points of contact as appropriate and notify the DOE Headquarters Emergency Operations Center and LPSO of the site/facility SECON status. Measures associated with each SECON are not prioritized, but should be initiated concurrently, when practical. A record of specific actions taken for each measure shall be maintained. A description of each SECON including the necessary circumstances for implementing, the impact on operations, and the purpose of each protective posture, is outlined below.

(1) SECON-5: This condition exists when a general threat of possible terrorist activity exists, but warrants only routine security measures associated with daily operations.

(2) SECON-4: This condition applies to a possible threat of terrorist activities and generally enhances security awareness responsibilities.

(3) SECON-3: This condition is used when an increased and more predictable threat of terrorist activity exists and may increase access controls to include additional personnel and vehicle barriers.

(4) SECON-2: This condition is set when a terrorist incident occurs or intelligence information is received indicating that some form of terrorist action is imminent, and requires specific protection measures to be put in place.

(5) SECON-1: This most serious condition is declared in the immediate area where a terrorist attack has occurred which may effect the site or when an attack is initiated on the site. This significantly increases protective measures and may require additional protective elements along with those in SECON-2.