

**Metro**

Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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OCTOBER 5, 2004

**TO:** BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**THROUGH:** ROGER SNOBLE *[Signature]*  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**FROM:** JOHN B. SAPOE, JR. *[Signature]*  
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**SUBJECT:** OPERATION "ANGEL OVERLOAD" TERRORISTIS THREAT  
TRAINING EXERCISE

**ISSUE**

On Friday, October 8, 2004, at 9:00 a.m., the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), in conjunction with federal, state and local law enforcement authorities, will conduct Operation "Angel Overload" a terrorist threat training exercise. The exercise will take place at three locations: MTA Divisions 8 and 15, and the UCLA Medical Center. MTA chose to hold the training exercise at Divisions 8 and 15 due to their distance from major emergency response resources. There will be no impact to bus service because the exercise will occur in a remote corner of each facility.

**DISCUSSION**

Over the past two years, there has been an increased emphasis in conducting training exercises to address accidents and incidents involving the use of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) or other terrorist threats. The objective of the exercise is to reinforce training, evaluate effectiveness of training in the event of a terrorist incident, and provide immediate feedback to participants. City, county and state first responders will be tested on functions unique to terrorist threats/WMD incidents with simulation roll playing. These include a bus bombing drill, bus hostage take-over, and a chemical release drill. Approximately 100 extras will be used on site to act as victims.

The first component of the exercise is to test first response to chemical or biological weapon incidents. The second component will involve conducting systematic preparedness testing in two jurisdictions and a major university trauma center. The third will seek to coordinate and integrate the terrorist threat exercises through the federal interagency exercise program. Additionally, the exercise will provide valuable training for MTA management and personnel who will be faced with decisions on whether to consider a partial or full system shut-down in responding to such a threat.

The MTA will coordinate this exercise with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Transportation Security Administration, the Office of Domestic Preparedness, the L.A. County Sheriff's Department Transit Services Bureau, Los Angeles Police Department and the Los Angeles City Fire Department. With different agencies participating in each other's exercises, response personnel will gain valuable insights to sharpen inter-departmental coordination and be better prepared in the event of a terrorist threat. Funding for this exercise was made possible by a grant from the FTA.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

Metro personnel will monitor the actions of the upcoming exercise and provide a report to the MTA Board on the outcome.

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