



**ATF**  
Bureau of  
Alcohol, Tobacco,  
Firearms and Explosives

**CAT**

Communities Against Terrorism

**FBI**  
Federal Bureau  
of Investigation



**POTENTIAL  
INDICATORS**  
of Terrorist Activities related to

## Firearms Shops and Ranges

*Note: Neither ATF nor the FBI intends to interfere with an individual's right to purchase a firearm or deny the Constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens. There may be a perfectly legitimate reason why any of the indicators described below is present; we are counting on you to determine when that is not the case.*

*What should I consider suspicious?*

*What should I do?*

### SUSPICIOUS APPEARANCE, ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNICATIONS:

- Alters appearance from visit to visit (beard shaved off, hair color changed, etc.).
- Insists on paying with cash or uses credit card(s) in different name(s).
- Identification provided is inconsistent or person demands identity privacy.
- Customer travels illogical distance to purchase a firearm or train/practice at a gun range.
- Buying a large number of the same or similar model firearms.
- Attempting to conceal conversations (beyond mere price negotiations).
- Acting evasively during conversations or while responding to questions.
- Individuals who together are interested in learning group tactics.
- Participants making racist or extreme religious statements.
- Unusual comments made regarding anti-US, radical theology, vague or cryptic warnings.
- Interested in using a firearm in a manner inconsistent with the type of weapon being purchased.
- Purchasing firearms in a way revealing intent to circumvent legal restrictions.
- Purchasing firearms in a manner meant to avoid the multiple sales reporting requirements.
- Inquiring about the illegal conversion of firearms.
- Expressing interest in the deadly force of the firearm beyond the interest typically shown by purchasers.
- Expressing interest for ammunition which can penetrate law enforcement body armor
- Practice of kidnapping or ambush scenarios at ranges
- Referring to military/jihad training manuals in a threatening manner.

- If something seems wrong, notify law enforcement authorities.
- Ask questions about the purchase and the intended use of the firearm. By asking questions, you may prevent a potentially unlawful firearms transaction.
- Exercise your right to decline a transaction if the customer appears nervous or uneasy, avoids eye contact, or if you are unsure whether the sale is legal.
- If you have lawfully sold a firearm, ammunition, provided gunsmith services, or firearm training services, and you later uncover any unusual information about your customer, you are encouraged to contact either the ATF or the FBI through the JRIC.

### DO NOT JEOPARDIZE YOUR SAFETY OR THE SAFETY OF OTHERS.

Preventing terrorism is a community effort. By learning what to look for, you can make a positive contribution in the fight against terrorism. The partnership between the community and law enforcement is *essential* to the success of anti-terrorism efforts.

Some of the activities, taken individually, could be innocent and must be examined by law enforcement professionals in a larger context to determine whether there is a basis to investigate. The activities outlined on this handout are by no means all-inclusive but have been compiled from a review of terrorist events over several years.

To report suspicious activity, please call  
1-877-OHS-INTEL (877-647-4683) or by logging onto  
[HTTP://HOMELANDSECURITY.OHIO.GOV](http://HOMELANDSECURITY.OHIO.GOV).  
In the event of an emergency, please dial 911.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT JUST BECAUSE A PERSON'S SPEECH, ACTIONS, BELIEFS, APPEARANCE, OR WAY OF LIFE IS **DIFFERENT**; IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT PERSON IS **SUSPICIOUS**.



To report suspicious activity, please call 1-877-OHS-INTEL (877-647-4683) or by logging onto [HTTP://HOMELANDSECURITY.OHIO.GOV](http://HOMELANDSECURITY.OHIO.GOV). In the event of an emergency, please dial 911.

Some of the indicators listed above are, by themselves, lawful conduct or behavior and may also constitute the exercise of rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. In addition, there may be a wholly innocent explanation for conduct or behavior that appears suspicious in nature. For this reason, the totality of behavioral indicators and other relevant circumstances should be evaluated when considering any law enforcement response or action.