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RUTGERS FACILITY WINS \$600,000 FEDERAL GRANT TO CONDUCT NEW ANTI-TERROR TRAINING PROGRAM FOR NATION'S TRANSIT SYSTEMS

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. – The National Transit Institute (NTI) will begin conducting a new anti-terror training program for employees of the nation's 20 largest public transit systems, as a result of a \$600,000 grant from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The new course will build on the NTI's experience over the past two years in providing anti-terror training, which has included preparing transit employees for the Democratic and Republican National Conventions and the 2004 Summer Olympic Games in Athens.

A part of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, NTI developed the new *Terrorist Activity Recognition and Reaction Program* in July and will use the FTA grant to provide it free of charge to the nation's top 20 transit systems. The program includes instructor-led training and alternative media such as interactive CD-ROM programs, a video and print materials.

"NTI is recognized as the national leader in developing practical training programs to raise awareness and help transit employees recognize and report terrorist activity," said NTI Director Paul Larrousse. "Over 650 transit agencies nationwide are using NTI's training and materials. Since June 2002, over 61,000 transit employees have received NTI's initial training course which was approved by both the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and federal transportation authorities."

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NTI trained employees of NJ TRANSIT and Metro-North Railroad employees in preparation for the upcoming Republican National Convention in New York, as well as transit workers with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority for last month's Democratic National Convention in Boston. In addition, NTI's video and print materials were translated to Greek to assist Athens officials in their anti-terror preparations for the 2004 Summer Olympics.

The new course NTI has developed focuses in more detail on recognizing and reporting suspicious activity. This can include such things as terrorists' efforts to gather intelligence on specific targets, to conducting "dry runs" of terrorist plots, to actually carrying out a plan that could include suicide bombers. The goal is to provide the training to the top 20 transit agencies nationwide by January 15, 2005.

In addition to training bus and rail employees, NTI has adapted the security awareness training for passenger vessel operations and state transportation departments to train employees working in and around the highway systems to recognize and report suspicious activity. Sessions have been conducted for highway workers in Washington State, New York, Florida, Missouri, Iowa, Maryland, and New Jersey. Additional sessions are scheduled in New Hampshire, Arizona and Kentucky.

The ferry training was offered in Seattle, New York/New Jersey, Long Island, Boston, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Chicago. Additional sessions are scheduled in Puerto Rico, Savannah, GA, and New Orleans.

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