

## CNN WOLF BLITZER REPORTS

August 24, 2004

BLITZER: When the Republicans gather in New York City, they'll be sitting right on top of a vital hub in the rail system. That gives terrorists a double target. Let's go live to New York, our homeland security correspondent Jeanne Meserve standing by -- Jeanne.

JEANNE MESERVE, CNN HOMELAND SECURITY CORRESPONDENT: Wolf, that place of concern is Penn Station that sees 600,000 travelers each day.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE) MESERVE (voice-over): More people travel through Penn Station in one day than live in the city of Boston. A terrorist strike here would be deadly and disruptive, especially while the Republican National Convention is overhead in Madison Square Garden.

COMMISSIONER RAY KELLY, NEW YORK POLICE: It's a complex environment. There's no question about it. There are five levels at Penn Station. There are multiple agencies involved. There are communications challenges.

MESERVE: During the Democratic National Convention, North Station under the FleetCenter was shut down. But most agree that isn't an option here.

CHRIS KOZUB, NATIONAL TRANSIT INSTITUTE: You cannot shut down a station like Penn Station, which is the busiest rail terminal in this country, and expect anybody to be able to get to work, to the convention or anyplace.

MESERVE: Instead, security throughout the New York rail system is escalating during convention week. Three hundred explosives detection dogs will be used to search each and every train car before it starts the trip and again before it enters the city. To prevent the placement of bombs on trains, trash receptacles are being sealed and most restrooms shut. No luggage will be allowed in overhead racks. Amtrak will require luggage tags. The New Jersey Transit System will be testing suspicious bags with new rapid time explosive detection machines.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Keep your eyes open for anyone or anything that is out of place or suspicious.

MESERVE: Railroad employees have been given instruction on how to spot and deal with suspicious activity. Surveillance camera's will scan the crowd, sensor will sniff the air. And every where in the system will be law enforcement, state troopers, national guardsman, local and transit police, some under cover, some very obvious.