



New Jersey Office of Homeland Security & Preparedness **NEWS**

Jon S. Corzine, Governor

Richard L. Cañas, Director

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For More Information Contact

Scott Kisch, OHSP (609) 588-7250

State Launches Public Awareness Campaign Urging Residents to Report Suspicious Activity -Email Address Established to Receive Tips from the Public-

HAMILTON — New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (OHSP) Director Richard L. Cañas announced today the state is launching an enhanced aggressive public awareness campaign encouraging residents to report suspicious activity to the state's toll-free and 24-hour terrorism tip line, 1-866-4SAFE-NJ and to a newly established email address, tips@njhomelandsecurity.gov. The tip line is staffed by trained law enforcement professionals. All information received from the public is kept confidential.

Cañas said OHSP began distributing newly designed poster boards intended to capture the public's attention, which include the phrase, "*Our Most Effective Weapon Against Terrorism is You, If You Suspect It, Report It.*" The posters prominently feature the terrorism tip line and email address. The poster can be viewed and downloaded at www.njhomelandsecurity.gov. Posters will be displayed in local police stations, places of business and other public facilities throughout the state.

"A well-engaged and well-informed citizenry is a critical component of New Jersey's homeland security strategy," Cañas said. "We need the public's cooperation. We urge citizens to notify law enforcement, either by phone or by email, if they see something suspicious."

"Our efforts to fight terrorism are enhanced a thousand-fold when law enforcement and the public work in partnership to detect and report suspicious activity," said Colonel Rick Fuentes, Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police.

Cañas reminded residents the investigation and prosecution of the five individuals charged with planning to attack soldiers at the Fort Dix military base began with a tip from a clerk at an electronics store who discovered what appeared to be terrorist activity on a home video.

Cañas said the state will be promoting both the toll-free tip line and the email address through the end of the calendar year and into 2009 using a variety of media outlets to reach a broad audience. Earlier this week, "*If You Suspect It, Report It*" messages began running on New Jersey Department of Transportation variable message signs on roadways throughout the state. He said the state was coordinating this public awareness campaign in partnership with the private sector and multiple federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.

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Governor Corzine created the Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (OHSP) after taking office in 2006. OHSP is responsible for leading the state's counter-terrorism and preparedness efforts. OHSP oversees and distributes discretionary state and federal homeland security and preparedness funds on behalf of the State of New Jersey. More information about OHSP can be found at www.njhomelandsecurity.gov.

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