

By JARRETT MURPHY / CBS/AP / July 9, 2004, 9:55 AM

# 'Summer Of Risk'



security election democrat republican terror antiterrorism homeland security GOP Democrat / AP / CBS

Comment / Shares / Tweets / Stumble / Email More +

Homeland Security director Tom Ridge said Thursday the U.S. continues to see intelligence that al Qaeda is "moving forward with its plans to conduct an attack in the U.S. in an effort to disrupt our democratic process."

Ridge's warning came more than month after Attorney General John Ashcroft warned that al Qaeda planned an attack sometime this summer. While officials remain worried, the amount of chatter has not increased in recent weeks.

Still some officials are citing a "steady drumbeat of recent and credible intelligence," and U.S. security agents say the "summer of risk" is upon the nation, with the upcoming presidential election posing a potential dangers, reports **CBS News Correspondent Bob Orr**.

There are some worries that upcoming political conventions in Boston and New York could be terror targets. But there is no hard evidence that terrorists are plotting against the conventions and no specific credible information detailing any possible U.S. attack, reports **Orr**.

But security analysts suspect al Qaeda's leaders want to build on the successful attack launched in March when a series of train bombings in Madrid seemed to alter the outcome of Spain's elections, reports **Orr**.

"We have credible information that al Qaeda wishes to accomplish much the same terrorist act within the United States in the next several months," said FBI Director Robert Mueller.

## CBSN Live

### Youngest Congressman



## Most Popular

- 01 Flu season takes another turn for the worse  
52196 views
- 02 ESPN anchor Stuart Scott's rare cancer  
47965 views
- 03 Cops: Tot accidentally shoots, kills mom in Idaho Walmart  
46550 views
- 04 Indonesia halts flights amid doubts over AirAsia permit  
44354 views
- 05 AirAsia search all but over, giving way to recovery  
38739 views

## Watch CBSN Live

"We lack precise knowledge of the time, place or method of that attack," Ridge said. He did not announce any change in the nation's terrorist alert level, currently at yellow or "elevated."

Ridge's remarks consisted mainly of an update on security efforts. He said he had briefed all 100 Senators earlier Thursday and talked to state homeland security directors Wednesday night.

"We have permanent protections in place today that did not exist a year ago," Ridge said. These included "full nationwide connectivity" to a Homeland Security information center.

The Olympics in August in Athens, Greece, is also a possible target.

In April, a working group made up of representatives from agencies that touch on law enforcement, homeland security and intelligence was established to deal with a series of events through the election that may be attractive targets for terrorists, including the presidential nominating conventions.

Senior administration officials and counterterrorism experts view the coming months as a time to increase vigilance out of concern that Islamic militants may try to replicate the political success they had in Spain with coordinated pre-election train bombings.

Nearly 200 died in the March attack, and the prime minister's ruling Popular Party lost to a rival who promised a pullout of Spanish troops from Iraq.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist told reporters that Americans should not expect a major announcement on homeland security any time soon, indicating that the nation's threat level could remain at its "elevated" level.

"There's, obviously, no reason for panic, or paralysis," Frist said after a briefing for senators on intelligence matters. "The country is at some increased risk between now and the time of the presidential election. It's important for people to be aware of that."

"What is clear is that law enforcement has generally been notified. ... There are enhanced activities on behalf of law enforcement around the country to engage in deterrence and prevention," he said.

The FBI and Homeland Security Department also are concerned about so-called soft targets such as shopping malls anywhere in the United States that offer a far less protected environment than a political convention hall.

Last month, a grand jury charged that Nuradin Abdi, a 32-year-old Somali native, conspired with admitted al Qaeda member Iyman Faris and others to detonate a bomb at an unidentified shopping mall in Ohio.

FBI Director Robert Mueller told reporters last week in Seattle that local, state and federal officials must cooperate to prevent a new terrorist attack. The lack of such cooperation, from the federal government on down, has been cited by congressional and independent investigators as a key reason the Sept. 11, 2001 plot was not detected.

"We try to use our imagination to determine where the next threat might come from," Mueller said after a visit to the FBI's Seattle field office.

© 2004 CBS Interactive Inc. All Rights Reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed. The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Comment / Shares / Tweets / Stumble / Email More =



Apple TV amazon fireTV Roku



CBS News. Always On.

Introducing CBSN

Watch CBS News anytime, anywhere with the new 24/7 digital news network. Stream CBSN live or on demand for FREE on your TV, computer, tablet, or smartphone.

Watch Now



play VIDEO  
Alive and Kickin', part one

Most Shared

- Cosby becomes focus of "Celebrity Apprentice" premiere
- Cleveland woman's death in custody ruled homicide
- 2 prospects from U.S. ski team killed in avalanche in Austria
- "Dude... Stop the spread, please"
- Cops: Tot accidentally shoots, kills mom in Idaho Walmart

### Jarrett Murphy Recommended

Senior Iranian general killed in Iraq during ISIS fight

Dead body of 17-year-old found in Phoenix alley

Learn more

Body found in car trunk ID'd as missing Texas woman Lisa Byrd-New Andrews

Restart Your Healthy Routine

Walgreens Sponsored

Powered by for Natalie



11 PHOTOS

### Featured in U.S.



#### Parents of child with special needs humiliated on United Airlines flight

Family hopes their anger over the way their special needs daughter was treated on a United Airlines flight will be a lesson for other parents



#### Critics say "Selma" inaccurately claims LBJ clashed with MLK over civil rights

Many say the film unfairly portrays the former president as an impediment to the civil rights movement

### Popular on CBS News



This Morning from CBS News, Jan. 6, 2015



Millions caught in icy grip as snow heads east



Watch: Tanker truck explodes in Florida

Play VIDEO



NYPD officer injured when joyriding on hood of police car

Play VIDEO



MoneyWatch: Oil demand low, supply high; Dish Network launches cheap Internet TV service

Play VIDEO



Cameron Diaz officially off the market

Play VIDEO



New research on best treatment for prostate cancer

Play VIDEO



"Mrs. Doubtfire" home targeted by arsonist?

### Most Discussed



Scalise: Suggestion he was involved with Duke group is "ludicrous"

1167 COMMENTS



NYPD officers again turn backs on mayor at cop's funeral

1109 COMMENTS



Cops: Tot accidentally shoots, kills mom in Idaho Walmart

973 COMMENTS



NYC mayor: Cops' gesture at funerals disrespectful to families

756 COMMENTS



Mom killed by own gun described as loving, responsible

733 COMMENTS

## Comments

0 Comments / 1 person listening

SIGN IN

Empty text input box for user comments.


[+ FOLLOW](#)

Share

[POST COMMENT AS...](#)

[COMMENTING FAQs / GUIDELINES](#)

[NEWEST](#) | [OLDEST](#) | [TOP COMMENTS](#)

AdChoices 

#### CBSNews.com

[Site Map](#)  
[Help](#)  
[Contact Us](#)  
[CBS Bios](#)  
[Careers](#)  
[Internships](#)  
[Development Programs](#)

#### CBS Interactive

[Privacy Policy](#)  
[Terms of Use](#)  
[Mobile User Agreement](#)  
[About CBS](#)  
[Advertise](#)  
[Closed Captioning](#)

#### Follow Us

[Facebook](#)  
[Twitter](#)  
[RSS](#)  
[Email Newsletters](#)  
[YouTube](#)  
[CBS Radio News](#)  
[CBS Local](#)

Copyright © 2015 CBS Interactive Inc.  
All rights reserved.

Search...