



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ALERT: TERRORISM WAR ESCALATES United States Hits Intel Jackpot; DHS Matures, Must Increase Trucking Investigations**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2, 2004—CSIS analysts made the following statements today regarding security threats facing financial institutions in three U.S. cities:

**David Heyman, director, CSIS Homeland Security Program** (202-775-3293, [dheyman@csis.org](mailto:dheyman@csis.org)): “The new threat information is a jackpot for the intelligence and law enforcement communities. This intelligence provides us with greater understanding of al Qaeda tactics and capabilities. It also reminds us that terrorists are living among us, operating in plain sight and that we must continue to be vigilant. It's important to note, however, that this new intelligence provided us only with information about the vulnerabilities of particular targets – and not a blueprint for a specific attack. The real challenge for the government now will be to determine when the threat of a possible attack has passed.”

**Anthony Cordesman, CSIS Arleigh Burke Chair in Strategy** (202-775-3270, [acordesman@aol.com](mailto:acordesman@aol.com)): “On the one hand, the new alerts represent real progress in hunting down al Qaeda and penetrating its structure. On the other hand, they reveal a patient and sophisticated organization that still represents a major threat. Americans need to understand that the war on terrorism is still very real and almost certainly will continue for many years to come. This means taking such warnings seriously and being prepared to deal with the ongoing risk of attacks on U.S. cities and critical economic targets. All Americans, not simply its soldiers and officials, are part of the war on terrorism.”

**Christian Beckner, fellow, CSIS Homeland Security Program** (202-775-3201, [cbeckner@csis.org](mailto:cbeckner@csis.org)): “This latest warning reveals new signs of maturity at the Department of Homeland Security and a shift away from the broad-brush alerts of 2003. The planners' interest in truck bombs should serve as a wake-up call for the government to take trucking security more seriously. Since 9/11, the federal government has spent less than 1 percent of what it has spent on aviation security to secure our nation's trucking infrastructure.”

*These are the views of the individuals cited, not of CSIS, which does not take policy positions.  
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