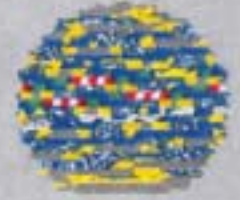




Office of Intelligence and Analysis

**Homeland
Security****Federal Bureau
of Investigation**

Joint Homeland Security Assessment

(U//FOUO) Terrorist Use of Modified Footwear to Conceal Explosive Devices

24 October 2007

(U//FOUO) Prepared by the DHS/CBRNE Branch, Borders and CBRNE Threat Analysis Division, DHS/TSA Office of Intelligence; and the FBI/Global Terrorism Analysis Unit.

(U) Scope

(U//FOUO) DHS and the FBI are providing this assessment for general terrorism-related awareness. This assessment discusses a specific, recent terrorist incident involving the use of modified footwear to conceal explosive devices. DHS and the FBI lack specific, credible intelligence that terrorists plan to use this concealment tactic in the Homeland.

(U) Key Findings

(U//FOUO) A recent terrorist incident involving the international smuggling of electric blasting caps highlights the continuing use of modified footwear as a concealment method for explosive devices. These shoe modifications are difficult to detect by visual inspection. Homeland security personnel, law enforcement officials, and international security partners—particularly at airport passenger screening checkpoints—need to be cognizant of the continued interest among terrorists to conceal explosive devices in shoes.

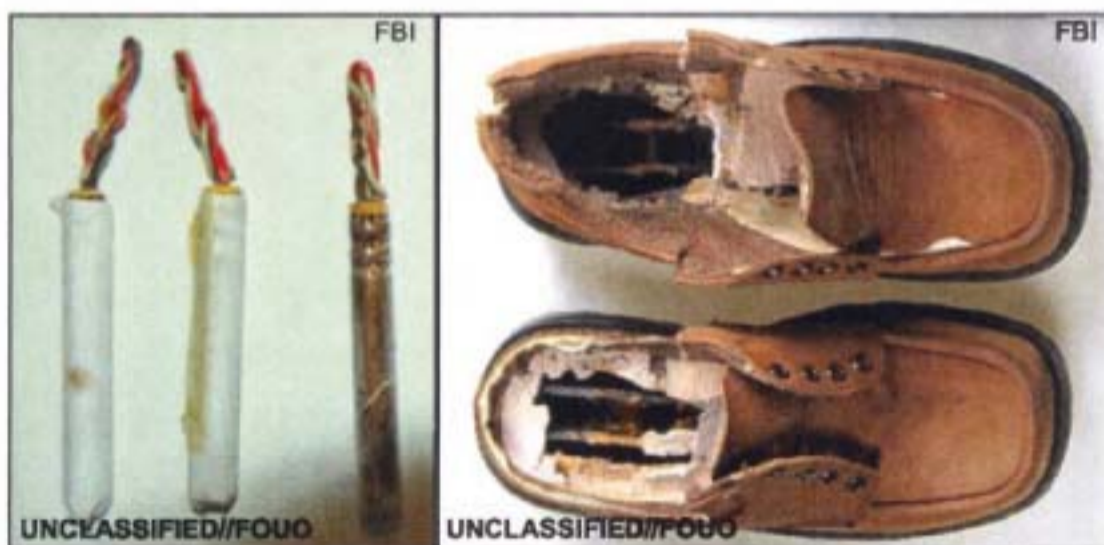
(U) Shoes Used to Conceal Explosive Devices

(U//FOUO) European authorities in September 2007 discovered a pair of shoes that were used to smuggle electric blasting caps across international borders for use in a terrorist attack. The shoes were modified in a manner that would make it difficult for security personnel to distinguish them from normal shoes visually.

- (U//FOUO) The shoes—made of leather with thick rubber soles—were modified so that the insole of each shoe could be removed for access to the hollow interior of the rubber sole. Electric blasting caps were placed inside the hollow rubber sole, and the insole was glued to the rubber sole to appear as if the shoe was never modified.
- (U//FOUO) The blasting caps—each measuring about two inches in length—were individually wrapped in paper, possibly to protect them from the glue used when the shoes were reassembled.

(U//FOUO) Reporting indicates that the shoes were not worn, but were transported by bus in luggage across international borders. Security personnel may have difficulty detecting explosive devices hidden in these types of modified shoes during visual screening procedures.

- (U//FOUO) Airports in the United States require a 100 percent X-ray inspection of footwear; however, many overseas airports that have flights destined to the United States do not have the same requirements.



(U//FOUO) Blasting caps and modified shoes discovered by European authorities.

(U//FOUO) Previous Use of Shoes as a Concealment Method

(U//FOUO) On 22 December 2001, al-Qa'ida operative Richard Reid attempted to detonate an improvised explosive device concealed in the lining of his shoe onboard a flight from Paris to Miami. As Reid attempted to light a match to ignite the fuse protruding from the lining, a flight attendant noticed his unusual behavior and passengers interceded, foiling the bombing attempt.

(U) Outlook

(U//FOUO) DHS and the FBI judge that terrorists will continue to use concealment methods for explosive devices or components, such as hiding them in modified footwear, especially in circumstances where inspection is rudimentary. Visual inspection will not always detect these devices. Homeland security personnel and law enforcement can use a variety of screening techniques, such as X-ray technology and explosive trace detection (ETD) portal machines, to ensure that terrorists are not using modified footwear to conceal explosive devices or components.

(U//FOUO) Enhanced screening by X-ray and ETD of footwear by international security personnel will mitigate the risk of concealment of explosive materials in shoes; however, other modes of transport that do not require personal screening will remain vulnerable to shoe-based smuggling.

(U) Potential Indicators of Shoe Tampering

(U//FOUO) Homeland security personnel and law enforcement should be aware of the following indicators that could suggest the presence of explosives hidden in footwear. Multiple indicators in combination with other suspicious activity may warrant inspection using X-ray and EDT portal machines and the physical examination of the shoes.

- (U//FOUO) Shoes with thick soles that could be hollowed out to allow the insertion of explosives.
- (U//FOUO) Wires or other unusual protrusions from shoes.
- (U//FOUO) Shoes that appear to have been dismantled and reassembled.
- (U//FOUO) Individuals walking in an unusual manner.