

NEW YORK POST

APPLE BOOSTS SECURITY

By ERIKA MARTINEZ and SAM GOLDSMITH

June 30, 2007 -- New York City officials ramped up security yesterday in the wake of the foiled bombings in London - creating vehicle checkpoints all over town and restricting parking in front of nightclubs.

"We will continue to monitor the situation there throughout the weekend and keep some additional police resources in place until we have a better understanding of what transpired in London," said Police Commissioner Ray Kelly.

While officials stressed there was "no specific threat" against the Big Apple, they were taking extra precautions following the discovery of gas- and nail-laden cars in the heart of London.

"We've increased deployment of our critical-response vehicles, focusing on tourist sites to a certain extent - Times Square, Herald Square, the Theater District," Kelly said.

He said officers had increased the number of checkpoints on the city's bridges and in other locations.

Additional officers, slated to go off duty yesterday afternoon, were kept on and sent into the subway system to keep an eye out.

Last night, cops were not permitting limos and cars from stopping in front of clubs in Chelsea as a precaution.

"I think it's a good idea," said clubgoer Anad Gupta, 28, who lives in the East Village. "It makes me feel safe."

Kelly said the department had made special note of this particular car-bomb plot because of its similarity to one cooked up by Esa al-Hindi, an al Qaeda operative imprisoned in England.

Hindi had once participated in scouting out terror targets in New York, including the New York Stock Exchange and the Citicorp Building.

But Kelly said that "it's just an abundance of caution."

Meanwhile, a grand jury yesterday indicted the four accused terrorists charged in the plot to blow up John F. Kennedy Airport by exploding the jet fuel pipeline that feeds it.

The indictment, filed in district court in Brooklyn, formally charges Russell Defreitas, Kareem Ibrahim, Abdul Kadir and Abdel Nur with conspiring to "cause death, serious bodily injury and extensive destruction."

The four men are part of an alleged Caribbean terror cell that was busted earlier this month.

Defreitas is in custody in New York, awaiting a July 11 arraignment date. The other men are being held in Trinidad, where they are fighting extradition.

Feds say Defreitas, 65, along with Kadir, 55, and Nur, 57, both of Guyana, and Ibrahim, 56, from Trinidad, were in contact with an extremist group, Jamaat al Muslimeen, to help fund their plot and supply explosives for a fuel-pipeline attack they hoped would rival 9/11 in horror, death and economic damage.

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