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Press Release

March 21, 2007

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IMMEDIATE

MTA Police Partner with Federal, State and Local Law Enforcement to Dramatically Increase Police Presence on Commuter Railroads

MTA boosts train patrols and welcomes partner agencies in unprecedented effort; TSA officers to board trains for first time

MTA officials joined federal, state and local law enforcement officials to announce a new commuter rail security initiative that will redeploy MTA police and utilize federal, state and local law enforcement to help patrol trains and platforms. With the Bronx's idyllic Spuyten Duyvil Metro-North station as a backdrop, MTA officials stressed a new focus on police visibility from the Manhattan rail hubs to the ends of each Metro-North, Long Island Rail Road and Staten Island Railway line.

"The MTA's top priority is ensuring that our customers enjoy the safest and most secure commutes possible," said Elliot G. Sander, MTA Executive Director and CEO. "This combined deployment of MTA police and officers from a variety of federal and regional sources will give our commuter railroads the kind of police presence our customers deserve and the post-9/11 environment requires. This new program complements our See Something, Say Something initiative, which empowers the public and our employees to be the first line of defense as our eyes and ears on the system."

"Our cooperation with MTA is integral to TSA's approach to mass transit security," said Robert Jamison, TSA deputy administrator. "We are focused on our nation's high risk, high consequence rail systems and delivering visible, unpredictable deterrents to these systems."

"I commend the MTA for taking the initiative and having the courage to do things different. If there is one lesson we've learned in analyzing public safety threats, it is that changing routines and constantly evaluating our security routines are key," said New York State Deputy Secretary for Public Safety Michael Balboni. "On behalf of Governor Spitzer, I want to thank the MTA, the TSA, and all of our partners in law enforcement, for working with us and together to make this program possible."

The Directed Patrol Strategy is a tactic that will increase the number of teams of law enforcement officials covering the MTA's commuter rail network. Teams are deployed randomly to avoid predictable patterns. The initiative began last week with the redeployment of MTA Police officers on train patrols, and will increase in intensity this week with the participation of a number of agencies:

- MTA officers will also be carrying out step-on inspections of trains and deploying its 50 explosive trained K-9 teams. The initiative will be a permanent part of the MTA's security strategy, and is flexible enough to adapt to changing security situations.
- The federal Transportation Security Administration (TSA) will, for the first time, send teams of marshals onto MTA commuter trains.
- The New York State Police will perform inspections in its commuter rail territories.
- County and municipal police departments throughout the MN, LIRR and SIR territory will increase patrols at stations, on platforms and in parking lots.
- The NYPD will augment the directed patrol with teams of officers in Queens and the Bronx.

Sander noted that while the MTA and its partners are taking every step within their power to safeguard the MTA's customers and commuter rail assets, Congress, the White House and the rest of the federal government must do more to shoulder its share of the responsibility. Currently, the federal government is spending \$7.50 for every commercial aviation passenger, compared to a paltry \$.015 per mass transit rider.

"Through this security initiative we have maximized our security resources and taken full advantage of our regional partners, but there is more we would like to do," Sander said. "We are hopeful that legislation pending in Washington will soon provide the MTA and other mass transit agencies across the country with the resources to do an even better job keeping our customers safe."