

**BY EMAIL**

**Directed Parties**  
**Nominated Security Contacts**  
**Port Facility Security Officers**  
**Company Security Officers**  
**DfT Accredited Trainers**

**06 April 2010**

Welcome to TRANSEC Threats Office Information Note **01/10**. This document has been produced by the TRANSEC Threats Office and follows Information Note 01/09 issued on 01 December 2009.

**Please be aware that due to the sensitivities involved, this note does not include any details about the attack on Northwest flight 253 on 25<sup>th</sup> December 2009. A separate classified briefing note on this has been issued to accredited DfT trainers in the aviation sector. Please email the address below if you would like a copy.**

Information Note 01/10 again looks to highlight specific incidents and potentially new and novel methods of constructing, concealing and conveying weapons and explosives. It is not designed to be an exhaustive list.

It is important to bear in mind that this Information Note does not set out to provide a threat assessment on the effectiveness of the items shown or the likelihood of them being used. It is purely a factual account of what has been observed and reported.

While this document does not carry a formal protective marking, it does contain some sensitive information and images and as such **we would ask that the document is stored, handled and disseminated appropriately within your organisation.**

Thank you to those who provided feedback and comments on note 01/09 which we have taken into account. We would also welcome any comments on this edition or information/examples which you feel merits inclusion in future editions. You can contact the TRANSEC Threats Office:

By post: Zone 5/09, Southside, 105 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6DT

Telephone: 020 7944 2870 / 2872

Fax: 020 7944 2873

Email: [TICB@dft.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:TICB@dft.gsi.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely,



**Phil Williams**

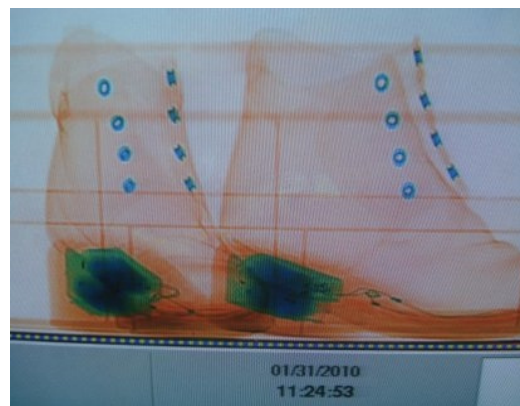
## INCIDENTS OF NOTE

**December 2009, UK:** an x-ray operator working in an airport cargo shed was alerted while screening a medium sized heavy duty protective case. Visually the case appeared entirely normal, however the x-ray image clearly showed concealed wiring, circuitry and a power source. **Unfortunately the x-ray images of this item are not available at present.**



Following detailed examination, the case was found to have built in protection systems and once “armed”, if tampered with the, case emits coloured smoke, a high decibel alarm and an 80,000 volt shock via the handle to anyone handling it. The case is primarily designed to provide secure storage for cash or other valuable items.

**January 2010, UK:** a male passenger passing through central search activated the metal detector, during subsequent searching his shoes were subjected to an x-ray. The image showed that the shoes contained wires and circuitry. The shoes returned a negative result when traced for explosives. Following further examination, the shoes were found to contain a heating device for use in cold weather – the passenger had been given the shoes as a gift and was not aware they contained electronic circuitry.



## INCIDENTS OF NOTE



### March 2010, UK:

The following firearm and ammunition were found in the hold baggage of a transit passenger. The correct paperwork was not available for the weapon which was subsequently seized by UK authorities.



## CONCEALMENT OF ITEMS

### On the body

#### LIQUID & GEL CONCEALMENT OBJECTS

Those working in security environments where there are bans or restrictions on liquids should be aware of a number of commercially available products which include inbuilt liquid pouches. **These items are legal** and are designed to provide easily accessible hydration for endurance athletes. These come in a variety of different styles and designs.

There are various backpack designs which contain a potentially hard to spot concealed liquids reservoir. The liquid capacity varies depending on the make and model, but the item shown below can hold around 2 litres of liquid.



Other products are designed to be worn under clothing, one example is this women's vest with a built in liquids pouch which holds 72 fl. oz of liquid:



The following item is usually worn under trousers and above underwear. These hidden liquid containers hold around 24 oz. of fluids



## CONCEALMENT OF ITEMS

### On the body

#### LIQUID & GEL CONCEALMENT OBJECTS

This is more of a novelty item, but each of these slip on sports shoes contains small hidden liquid compartment which holds around 1.5 fl oz:



A number of other drinks containers are easily available which resemble items you would normally expect travellers to have in their belongings:



## CONCEALMENT OF ITEMS

### Hidden Weapons

#### BUCKLE KNIFE

This concealed knife is designed for one-handed operation and the back can be opened with a flick of the thumb.



#### HAIR BRUSH/COMB WITH CONCEALED PLASTIC BLADES

Designed to look like a standard plastic hairbrush or comb, both contain a sharp spike which is easily detached from the head of the object.



#### PENS WITH INTERNAL KNIVES

A wide variety of pens with hidden internal knives/blades and which widely available from multiple internet sites

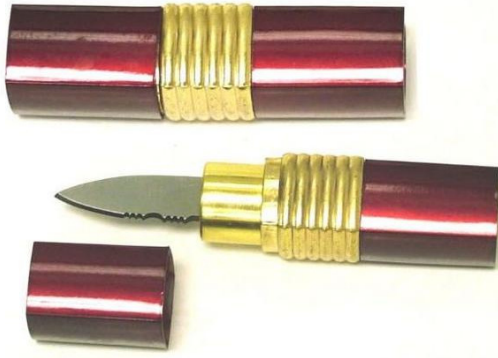


## CONCEALMENT OF ITEMS

### Hidden Weapons (cont)

#### CONCEALED LIPSTICK KNIVES

Widely available on the internet for around \$10-15USD



#### COIN KNIVES

These “coins” contain small, albeit very sharp, blades hidden inside either real or replica coins.



#### SHOT GUN CASING KNIVES

Small blades hidden within what appear to be shot gun casings



## CONCEALMENT OF ITEMS

### Hidden Weapons (cont)

#### STUN PEN

This device measures 6 and 3/8" x 1 and 3/8" and just weighs around 3 ounces; the website states that a half second shock will "*startle the assailant*" while 1 or 2 second shock will "cause muscle spasms and a dazed mental state" while a 3-5 second shock will reportedly cause "*loss of balance and muscle control, disorientation and will bring the assailant to their knees*". The device is powered by 2 regular batteries.



### Other Concealment Objects

#### HOLLOWED OUT CIGARETTES

These items are primarily designed to carry small amounts of bank notes or medication, they are made from plastic but can appear real from a quick glance.





## CONCEALMENT OF ITEMS

### Concealment Objects (cont)

#### HOLLOWED OUT LIGHTER

Primarily designed to carry small amounts of bank notes or medication



#### HOLLOWED OUT CHAP STICK CONTAINER

Primarily designed to carry small amounts of bank notes or medication, this is widely available on many websites.



#### CONCEALMENT WATER BOTTLE

Designed to disguise valuables in hand or checked luggage from opportune thieves. Available from a variety of travel related websites.



## GENERAL SECURITY AWARENESS INFORMATION

We have become aware of a new download programme for use with certain makes of smart phone, which allow users listen to **unencrypted** radio transmissions. The programme, which originates from the USA, runs on wireless LANs and the 3G and EDGE networks, and is compatible with both 2.x and 3.0 devices.

The scanner programme described is capable of monitoring Un-encrypted analogue transmissions, *i.e.* VHF that does not employ an encryption key. The programme **will not** however compromise the Airwave radio system widely used by UK emergency services, but may be capable of intercepting operational VHF systems used by some security teams.

The ability to listen to unencrypted transmissions is not itself a new vulnerability, and portable radio scanners have been widely available for many years. This programme appears to offer the ability for someone to connect a scanner to the internet and “stream” transmissions to a much wider audience via smart phones. This means those listening to a scanned transmission do not need to be in the vicinity of the radio system.



**If you have any concerns about the potential vulnerability of your VHF radio system, you should speak with your security provider or equipment manufacturer about potential solutions.**