



# NYPD SHIELD

COUNTERING TERRORISM *through* INFORMATION SHARING



## Heightened Awareness Urged for Security Personnel Regarding a Series of Suspicious Packages Containing Explosive Devices

Information Cutoff Date: October 24, 2018 at 1:30pm

### OVERVIEW

Over the course of the last 48 hours, a series of suspicious packages containing improvised explosive devices have been discovered at several locations across the U.S. On Tuesday, October 23, 2018 a pipe bomb was delivered to the mailbox of George Soros in a New York City suburb. Additionally, Secret Service discovered an explosive device on the evening of October 23, 2018, addressed to former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's Westchester residence. On October 24, 2018, Secret Service intercepted another device addressed to former President Barack Obama, in Washington D.C. According to the U.S. Secret Service, the packages sent to Secret Service protectees were immediately identified during routine mail screening procedures as potential explosive devices and were appropriately handled as such. Both packages were intercepted prior to being delivered to their intended location. An additional fourth viable package addressed to former CIA Director John Brennan has been discovered at CNN headquarters/Time Warner Building in Manhattan. The NYPD is actively monitoring and responding to these incidents. The discovery of additional suspicious packages is ongoing and the NYPD expects additional reports of confirmed and unconfirmed packages or devices.



Image of Packaging

- All of the devices were delivered in weighty large manila envelopes. The address and return address were typed on white background in bold, block type; the return address on the identified packages referenced Representative Debbie Wasserman Shultz and an address in Florida. Each package had six large American flag stamps.
- According to press reporting, the device sent to CNN was constructed from a length of pipe a little longer than six inches and wrapped in black tape with what appeared to be epoxy on the ends. What could be a timer was attached to the side of the pipe and wires were visible at both ends.

### IMPLICATIONS FOR SECURITY PERSONNEL

The public plays an important role in the identification of suspicious activity and the reporting of unusual behavior which could indicate hostile pre-operational surveillance and attack planning. Prompt reporting of suspicious actions to law enforcement can lead to the prevention of violence.

- Mailroom personnel should remain vigilant for unusual activity and suspicious packages. Characteristics of suspicious packages include protruding wires, excessive or missing postage stamps, unusual mail from an unknown origin, no return address, strange odors, oily stains on wrappers, and addresses that are misspelled, poorly typed, or nameless. Prompt reporting of suspicious actions to law enforcement can lead to the prevention of violence.
- In addition to explosive devices sent in individualized packages to residential and commercial addresses, open facilities that attract large crowds of people, such as shopping malls, public plazas, entertainment venues, and evacuated areas are potential opportunistic targets for IEDs. Security personnel should be aware of suspicious backpacks, boxes, packages, and other objects that could be used to conceal a device.
- NYPD Shield offers training in several areas, including suspicious mail and packages. Please contact us at [ctshield@nypd.org](mailto:ctshield@nypd.org) for further information.

#### SOURCES

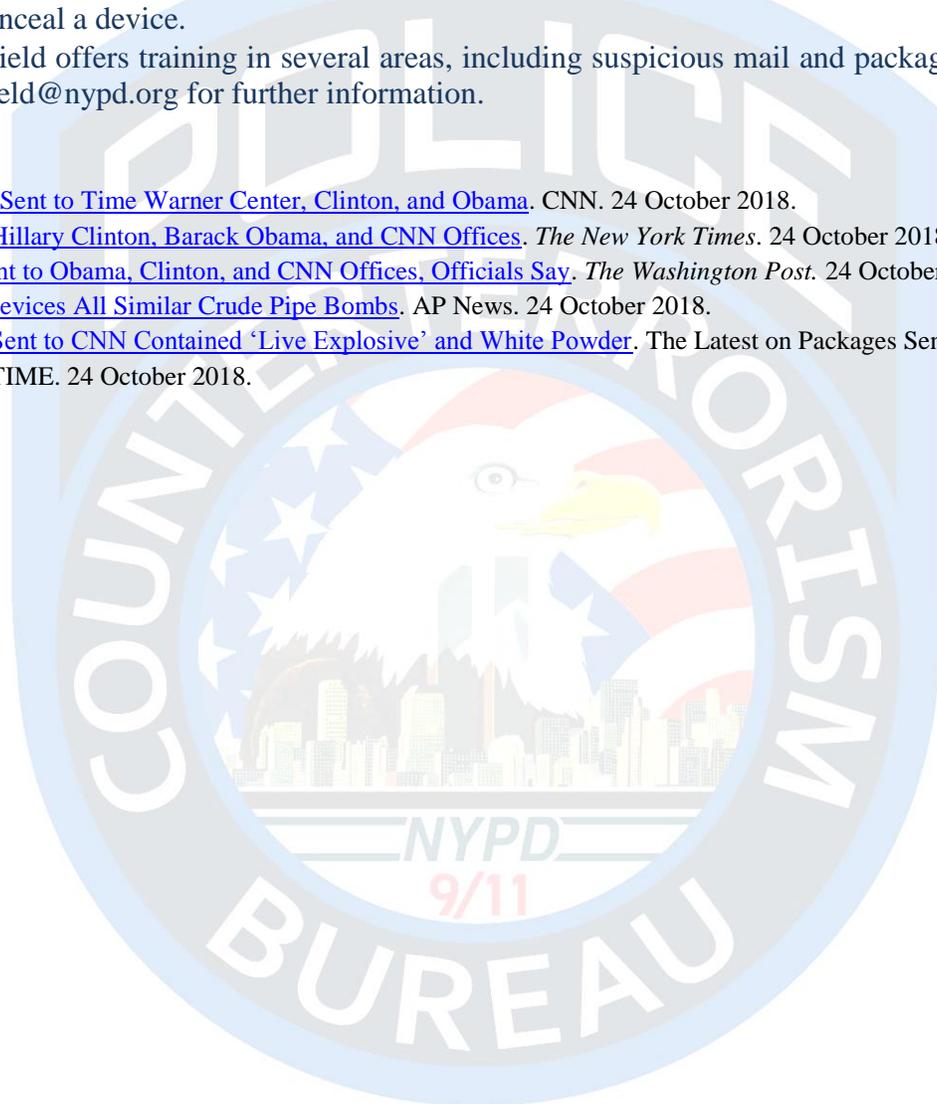
[Suspicious Packages Sent to Time Warner Center, Clinton, and Obama](#). CNN. 24 October 2018.

[Pipe Bombs Sent to Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, and CNN Offices](#). *The New York Times*. 24 October 2018.

[Suspected Bombs Sent to Obama, Clinton, and CNN Offices, Officials Say](#). *The Washington Post*. 24 October 2018.

[The Latest: NYPD-Devices All Similar Crude Pipe Bombs](#). AP News. 24 October 2018.

[Suspicious Package Sent to CNN Contained 'Live Explosive' and White Powder](#). *The Latest on Packages Sent to Clinton, Obamas, and More*. TIME. 24 October 2018.



**If You See Something, Say Something – 1-888-NYC-SAFE (1-888-692-7233)**