

New York to install cameras, sensors in subway stations

Move planned prior to London attacks

By Frank Eitman
Associated Press

NEW YORK — New York will install 1,000 surveillance cameras and 3,000 motion sensors in its sprawling network of subways and commuter-rail stations as part of a \$212 million security upgrade.

The upgrade is the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's largest financial commitment to its counterterrorism program. Although the agency approved a \$591 million security plan in 2002, it had spent only a fraction of that before this new deal with Lockheed Martin.

The transit agency's execu-

tive director, Katherine Lapp, rejected suggestions that Tuesday's announcement was tied to last month's terrorist attacks in London, which killed 52 people. She said the upgrades had been planned for more than a year. Lockheed Martin was chosen as the prime contractor last week.

"We wanted to make sure that we did it right, that we got to a place where we are today. ... This is not something over the last month that we decided to accelerate," Lapp said.

An agency spokesman said the system already has about 1,000 security cameras.

The security upgrades will be made to subway stations, bridges and tunnels operated by the transit agency, and the Metro-North and Long Island Rail Road commuter lines. None of the devices will be installed in train

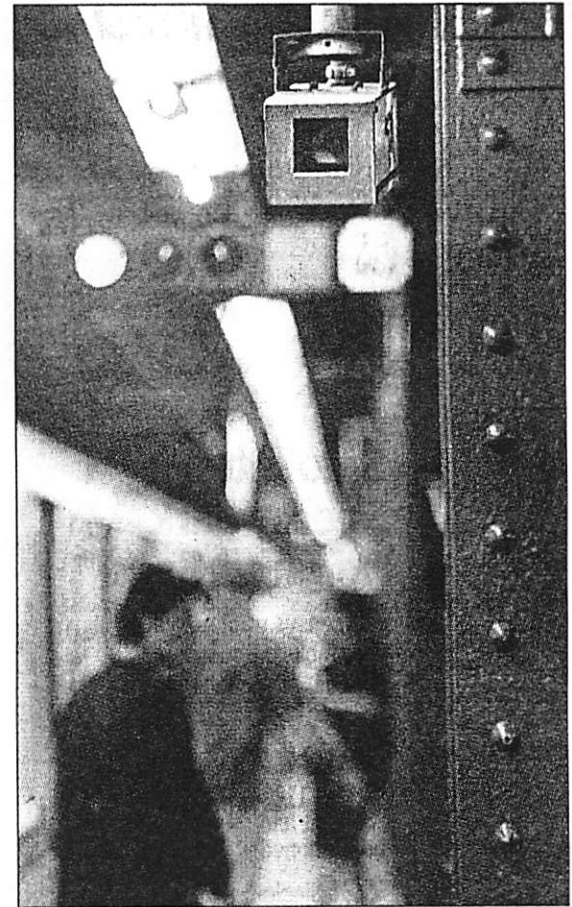
cars or buses.

Citing security issues, officials would not say where the cameras and sensors would be placed in the system, which has more than 700 subway and commuter-rail stations.

Sophisticated computer software will be used to process information from the system and to link the system to new mobile command centers for transit police, Lapp said. For example, alarms will be set off at the command centers if the system detects an unattended package on a subway platform.

Judy Marks, executive vice president for Lockheed Martin Transportation and Security Solutions, said the installation of the cameras will begin immediately.

The company has three years to complete the project.



Mario Tama/Getty Images

Older surveillance cameras are already mounted in some subway stations in New York City.