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Duke profs expect attack to have fallout

By PAUL BONNER : The Herald-Sun
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DURHAM -- Thursday's bombings in London likely will mean tighter security for American travelers and commuters and probably will shake the world economy, two Duke University officials say.

"In our larger cities, for the short run, there will be an increased police presence, explosive-sniffing dogs and spot checks of bags, and garbage containers removed, things like that," said David Schanzer, newly appointed director of the Duke-based Triangle Center on Terrorism and Homeland Security.

In the longer term, he said, mass transit could feature more surveillance cameras and other measures.

Schanzer is the former Democratic staff director of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security who was named last month to the new Triangle center, which involves Duke, UNC and RTI International. He also teaches public policy at Duke and UNC.

Schanzer said increased spending on security for trains and buses is overdue. Including commuter trains, more Americans travel by rail than by air.

He cited a 2003 estimate by the American Public Transportation Association that long-term security needs for passenger rail could cost some \$6 billion.

"Only a fraction of that has been completed," Schanzer said.

Even though a similar bombing could happen here, it would be unfortunate if Americans avoided rail or buses, he said.

"If we change the patterns in our life, we're kind of giving in to the terrorists," Schanzer said.

The British have been dealing with terrorist bombings far longer than Americans, he noted, although earlier bombings, most often by the Irish Republic Army, tended to

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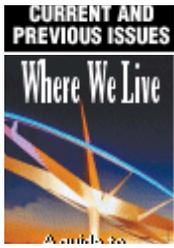
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avoid killing people.

"A large number of civilian deaths would have undercut public support and sympathy for their agenda," he said.

The economic impact of the bombings could be widespread, said Campbell Harvey, professor of international business at Duke's Fuqua School of Business.

"This sort of attack damages consumer business confidence. The tourism industry is going to be hammered by something like this," Harvey said.

That's especially true of travel to London, he said, but could also show up in such far-removed business phenomena as lower oil prices. With consumer confidence down, economic development is slowed and demand for commodities associated with it, such as oil, soften.

"It will have a negative effect also in other countries in Europe that are potential targets, as well as the U.S.," Harvey said.

In fact, Anglo-American affinities make the bombings tantamount to an attack on the United States in its visceral impact, he said. And that's bound to make Americans uneasy about their own transportation systems, despite heightened security.

"I think that we have rightfully concluded that the risk of a large-scale terrorism attack on the U.S. has decreased, given the steps we've taken in terms of airline security and other actions," Harvey said.

But coordinated bomb detonations on a city's public transportation obviously are still possible.

"You make it more difficult to have a large-scale attack, then the terrorists will substitute something else that is easier to execute," he said.

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