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With World Series and Marathon, New York Is Already on Heightened Alert

By ROBERT WORTH

As Attorney General John Ashcroft warned of the possibility of more terrorist strikes in the next week, New York City was already on heightened alert because of several high-profile events in the next few days, including the World Series game at Yankee Stadium tonight, which President Bush plans to attend, and the New York City Marathon, scheduled for next Sunday, which is likely to draw hundreds of thousands of spectators.

With fears of terrorism and anthrax contamination already unnerving people around the city before Mr. Ashcoft's warning yesterday, the police said they planned to double the normal security detail for postseason baseball, with at least 1,000 officers roving Yankee Stadium during World Series games.

The police would not release many details of their security plan but said tonight's game, with President Bush attending, would be one of the most heavily guarded sporting events in recent years. The last time the police deployed a force of even comparable size for a sports event was for the return of John Rocker of the Atlanta Braves, who had insulted New Yorkers, to the city.

"Police presence will be there to ensure the safety of all participants at that event and throughout the city," Sgt. Andrew McInnis, a police spokesman, said yesterday.

Under the security plan, which was first reported in The Daily News, both uniformed and plainclothes officers will patrol the ball park and surrounding area, with bomb-sniffing dogs and hazardous materials specialists also on hand. Fans will be forbidden to carry bags or knapsacks into the stadium, a restriction imposed after the terrorist attack on Sept. 11. Fans have also been subject to searches since the attacks. "I urge people not to bring packages, bags, knapsacks, umbrellas," Police Commissioner Bernard B. Kerik said at a news conference yesterday. "You will not be allowed into the stadium with them."

And for tomorrow night's game, the Police Department will take a similar tack, though its ranks will be stretched further because of Halloween festivities throughout the night. Each precinct in the city, the police said, will have plans to deal with neighborhood concerns like gangs and vandalism, while preparing for possible trouble around schools and cemeteries.

The organizers of the 32nd annual New York City Marathon said recently that they would not comment on security measures for the race. The marathon snakes through all five boroughs, crosses four of the city's bridges, and passes a number of major landmarks. About 30,000 people are registered for the race. The race has long been a spectacle for New Yorkers, with hundreds of thousands of people clustering and cheering along the route.

The police declined to comment on additional preparations for the annual Greenwich Village Halloween parade, an event that has drawn tens of thousands of costumed revelers and tourists in recent years.

Michael McKeon, a spokesman for Gov. George E. Pataki, said the governor had been in touch with federal officials all day about security matters and that by the end of the week the state planned to issue weapons to all 1,500 National Guard officers assigned to patrol in and around New York City in recent weeks, including at Pennsylvania Station, Grand Central Terminal and bridges and tunnels in the region.

There were added plans for security throughout the region as well. In Connecticut, Gov. John G. Rowland has responded to Mr. Ashcroft's warning by posting armed National Guard troops at nuclear power plants, said Dean Pagani, a spokesman for the governor. The Coast Guard will send additional boats to patrol the waters off southeastern Connecticut, he added.

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