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THREATS WON'T CHANGE SECURITY PLANS

AMBER HUNT FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER. Staff writer Ben Schmitt and the Associated Press contributed to this report.

The latest terrorist threats against the United States have caught the attention of Super Bowl officials - but they're not changing their security strategy.

So said Detroit Police Chief Ella Bully-Cummings during a news conference Monday, shortly before showing the Super Bowl's security hub to the Free Press.

"It has not changed anything we're doing," Bully-Cummings said. "We've received no information that there's a specific threat in the city of Detroit or for this event."

Two weeks ago, Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden warned that his fighters are preparing to attack the United States. On Monday, Ayman al-Zawahri, bin Laden's second-in-command, was shown mocking President George W. Bush and threatening an attack "or your own land."

Law enforcement officials said the Super Bowl already is classified as a Special Event Level 1 - the highest security level possible.

If anything does happen, those staffing the security hub would be the first to know.

The room - the location of which Bully-Cummings asked not be published - will provide laptops and phone lines for public safety workers, beginning at 4 p.m. today.

Some spots were reserved for the FBI and State Police, while others were saved for DTE Energy representatives and Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick's staff.

"This is where all the information will flow," Bully-Cummings said, standing in a room hugged by four movie theater-style screens, two of which showed CNN. The other two were reserved for E Team, emergency-management software that will allow agencies to share data in real time.

The room, dubbed the Events Operation Center, also featured computers monitoring area freeways, Comerica Park, Hart Plaza and Ford Field. It will be staffed 24 hours a day until Feb. 6.

That, matched with the 100-plus agencies Detroit police are working alongside this week, is why Bully-Cummings said she isn't as concerned with terrorist threats as she is with clogged traffic.

"I'm not concerned about Sunday, Feb. 5," she said. "I'm concerned with the zillion events leading up to it."

Contact AMBER HUNT at 313-222-2708. Staff writer Ben Schmitt and the Associated Press contributed to this report.

ILLUSTRATION: Photo KATHLEEN GALLIGAN Detroit Free Press

CAPTION: Officer Danyel Harris, left, and Lt. Rhonda Tillman - both of the Detroit Police Department - work at the Super Bowl security hub Monday.

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