

# Protect New York: Newsletter

## A Message from John Kostanoski, President of Protect New York:

I would like to commend Marie Maras and Philip Hancock for starting the Protect New York Newsletter. I believe that the results of their monthly efforts will be viewed as a valuable resource by our members. They will endeavor to report to you important news about security and safety research as they cross into academic terrain at the frontier of protection theory and practice .

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### New Technology in the Field

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has currently deployed additional security measures seeking to enhance their explosives detection capabilities at airports by using X-ray technology to screen powdered substances at security checkpoints.

See “TSA Implementing New Enhanced Threat Detection Capability at Checkpoints Nationwide” at: <<http://www.tsa.gov/press/releases/2009/0908.shtm>>

### Food for Thought: What Do Terrorists Look Like and How Do We Stop Them?

The recent FBI arrests of home-grown terrorists in the US have led to the need for a revision in the current practice of using counter terrorism measures that are based on a terrorist profile; male Muslims aged 17 – 40. Those arrested (Daniel Patrick Boyd, Bryant Neal Vinas, James Cromitie, David Williams, Stanley Grant Phanor, to name a few) do not fit law enforcement and intelligence agencies’ traditional profile of a terrorist. Research has also shown that women are engaging in terrorist operations and are even being radicalized in US prisons. In light of this, how can one determine what a terrorist looks like – when individuals currently engaging (or conspiring to engage) in acts of terrorism include: men, women, teenagers, rich, middle class, poor, educated, non-educated, citizens, non-citizens, illegal immigrants, individuals with prior criminal records, individuals with no criminal records, Muslim, non-Muslim and Muslim converts? Obviously, profiling in this case is impossible, since the description above could apply to the entire population. What is required, therefore, is precisely the type of measure that can detect these individuals (among the population). The question that follows is: are US security measures designed to effectively prevent and combat the current threat of terrorism?

## Monthly Update on Security Issues

**DHS Assessment Says Natural Disaster Could Enable Cyber-Attack:** The assessment warns that a major natural disaster such as an earthquake or a pandemic could be a "force multiplier" for any cyber-attacker, because it likely would impede the ability of officials and IT specialists to respond. Read more at [http://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/DHS\\_disaster\\_hacker\\_fear/2009/09/03/255875.html](http://www.newsmax.com/newsfront/DHS_disaster_hacker_fear/2009/09/03/255875.html)

**Fighting Terrorism The Silicon Valley Way:** Palantir may look like a typical Silicon Valley start-up, with free food and the usual comforts to make work more like home. But with clients like the FBI and CIA, it's far from the usual software company. Watch the short video at <http://online.wsj.com/video/fighting-terrorism-the-silicon-valley-way/424BD389-E24B-4C54-950C-7AD050F6565C.html>

**Firefighters Become Medics to the Poor:** Among the hidden costs of the health care crisis is the burden that fire departments across the country are facing as firefighters, much like emergency room doctors, are increasingly serving as primary care providers. Read more at <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/04/us/04firehouse.html?r=1&ref=global-home>

**EMP Threat to US:** Experts at recent conference of 800 people in Niagara Falls warned that an EMP attack could happen and that it would be even more harmful today than at the height of the Cold War. "If electricity were suddenly to fail, we would be instantaneously transferred from the 21st century to the 19th century," read more at <http://www.buffalonews.com/cityregion/niagaracounty/story/790658.html>

## General Interests Sites

**Tracking the progress of H1N1 swine flu:** view the worldwide spread of the H1N1 virus at <http://flutracker.rhizalabs.com/>

**Mass casualty event preparedness and response:** visit the CDC site for emergency preparedness and response at <http://emergency.cdc.gov/masscasualties/>

**FEMA Continuity Evaluation Tool:** see how FEMA evaluates its department and agency continuity programs at <http://www.fema.gov/pdf/government/coop/cet.pdf>

**Global Disease Outbreak Mapping/Monitoring Website:** HealthMap brings together disparate data sources to achieve a

unified and comprehensive view of the current global state of infectious diseases and their effect on human and animal health at <http://www.healthmap.org/en>

**US Severe Weather Map:** shows severe weather throughout the US at <http://www.wunderground.com/severe.asp>

**National Weather Situation Page:** obtain free emergency notification at <http://www.vuetoo.com/vue1/SituationPageNews.asp?sit=27>

**Government Emergency Telecommunications System (GETS):** read all about GETS at <http://gets.ncs.gov/index.html>

**Protect New York's goal is to safeguard New York State and the Metropolitan New York area from terrorism and disaster through research, education, and public service.**

## PROTECT NEW YORK

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Albany, New York

We are on the web  
[www.protectnewyork.org](http://www.protectnewyork.org)



### About Protect New York

The catastrophic risks that New York State faces from terrorism and other disasters will challenge us for generations. To create and disseminate knowledge on ever better ways of protecting ourselves, New York must foster excellence in research, education, and public service. Founded at SUNY Downstate Medical Center, in Brooklyn, N.Y., on April 24, 2006, **Protect New York** is dedicated to helping New York State and New York City meet this challenge.

### Readers Section

We at Protect New York rely on our readership to scan the environment and send in articles of interest so that we may spread the word. To this end, if you have web links or articles that you consider may be of interest then please e-mail your suggestions to [phancock@buffalo.edu](mailto:phancock@buffalo.edu) for consideration by the editors.

### About the Editors

Dr. Marie-Helen Maras is an international editor for the *Journal of Applied Security Research*. She is an Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at Farmingdale State College (SUNY). She was awarded her PhD in Law from the Center for Criminology, University of Oxford, UK in 2008. She also has graduate degrees in Criminology and Criminal Justice (University of Oxford, UK) and Industrial and Organizational Psychology (University of New Haven) and undergraduate degrees in Psychology and Computer and Information Science (University of Maryland University College). Marie gained extensive law enforcement and security experience from her posts in the military as a Navy Law Enforcement Specialist and Command Investigator. Her main research interests are security, surveillance, terrorism and counter terrorism.

Dr. Philip George Hancock is a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University at Buffalo (SUNY). Dr. Hancock's experience includes fourteen years in management in the Scottish Prison Service and three years part-time in the British Army. His main interest is operations research and his publications include articles appearing in *The Prison Journal*, *Journal of the Operational Research Society*, *International Journal of Service Sciences* and the *Journal of Applied Security Research*.