

# Protect New York: Newsletter

## Special points of interest:

- Heartbeat biometrics
- Mood-sensing technology
- DNA Database
- WikiLeaks
- Terror Attacks

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## New Technology in the Field: Heartbeat Biometrics

Apple made an interesting application to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Specifically, Apple has applied to patent technology that can biometrically identify users of iPod, iPad or iPhone devices by their heartbeat signals. This technology also is said to contain mood-sensing technology designed to change and tailor the settings of the device according to the user's mood.

## Food for Thought: The Implications of the Expansion of the DNA Database

In *S and Marper v. United Kingdom*, the European Court of Human Rights held that the retention of DNA samples in the U.K. National DNA Database of individuals that have been acquitted of a crime or that have had the charges against them dropped, violated the European Convention on Human Rights. By contrast, in the United States, incentives are being provided to promote the retention of DNA. In fact, the House of Representatives recently approved the Katie Sepich Enhanced DNA Collection Act 2010. This Act provides grants for the retention of DNA in the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) of those "who are arrested or charged with crimes involving murder, manslaughter, sexual assault, certain sexual offenses involving a minor, burglary, and aggravated assault". Under this system of retention an individual's DNA sample remains in CODIS indefinitely; even if the individual has not been convicted of a crime. How can such a reversal of the presumption of innocence be justified in the United States? If such retention is considered a violation of rights in Europe, why is this not also the case in the U.S.?

## Monthly Update on Security Issues

### Seven Miles High, Russia and U.S. Simulate Terror Attack

'In a historic first for Cold War adversaries, U.S., Canadian and Russian military officers directed fighter jets and ground controllers to test how well they could track an international terrorist hijacking over the Pacific Ocean.' Read more at:

<http://www.foxnews.com/scitech/2010/08/09/russia-conduct-historic-military-drills/>

### Rights Groups Join Criticism of WikiLeaks

'A group of human-rights organizations is pressing WikiLeaks to do a better job of redacting names from thousands of war documents it is publishing, joining the list of critics that claim the Web site's actions could jeopardize the safety of Afghans who aided the U.S. military.' Read more at:

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703428604575419580947722558.html?mod=WSJ\\_hpp\\_MIDDLENexttoWhatsNewsTop](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703428604575419580947722558.html?mod=WSJ_hpp_MIDDLENexttoWhatsNewsTop)

### Canada-United States Action Plan for Critical Infrastructure

'Building on a longstanding tradition of emergency management cooperation, the United States Government and the Government of Canada have set out, for the first time, a cross-border approach to strengthening the resiliency of critical infrastructure.' Read more at:

<http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/prg/em/ci/cnus-ct-pln-eng.aspx>

### Stealth expert guilty of selling secrets to China

'A former B-2 bomber engineer who marketed and sold his stealth expertise to China is facing life in a federal prison following his conviction for bartering U.S. military secrets.' Read more at:

[http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D9HGFLIO3&show\\_article=1](http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D9HGFLIO3&show_article=1)

## General Interests Sites

**The Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security/ Homeland Security Digital Library.** Provides open access to over 40,900 U.S. Federal Government documents and academic theses. Read more at: <http://hsdl.org/>

**New York City Fire Department.** Their main website is: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/fdny/html/home2.shtml>

**The Virtual Report.** HazMat/WMD Training and Situational Awareness information may be found here; you are required to register: <http://www.hazmatiq.com/?cat=12>

*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

Protect New York  
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of Government  
Albany, New York

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

  
**Protect New York**

### 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*.