

Protect New York: Newsletter

A Message from the Editors of the Protect New York Newsletter:

We would like to sincerely thank Mel Kenny, Deputy Commissioner of the Nassau County Police Department (NCPD), William Flanagan, Second Deputy Commissioner of NCPD, and Patrick Ryder, Commanding Officer of NCPD Asset Forfeiture and Intelligence, for providing us with a wealth of information about the crime prevention measures currently being used by the police department.

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New Technology in the Field

Law enforcement agencies, such as the Nassau County Police Department, are using a new and increasingly popular crime fighting tool known as the Mobile Plate Hunter or License Plate Reader (LPR). This device captures images of license plates with the help of strategically mounted cameras on the roof of patrol vehicles. Once the image is captured, it is turned into data, which is subsequently sent to a computer that compares each plate to a database of motor vehicles. While the primary purpose of this device is to check for stolen vehicles on the road, it is also capable of assisting in various other crimes (e.g. child abductions).

Food for Thought: Building on Effective Crime Prevention Measures

Apart from the LPRs, another effective crime fighting measure that is currently being deployed by the Nassau County Police Department (NCPD) is Shot Spotter. Shot Spotter consists of a network of sensors that are strategically placed in a location to create a coverage area where loud impulse events such as gunshots can be detected. When an event is detected, a computer calculates the location of the incident and categorizes the event by type; that is, whether or not

it was an actual gun shot or something else (e.g. firecracker). These incidents are then evaluated by a human agent. Subsequently, the location and event information are dispatched to law enforcement officers in the field. This technology has increased the rates of rapid police and medical response, witness and victim location, suspect apprehension and preservation of critical evidence. The recent success stories of the use of Shot Spotter and LPRs in law enforcement

agencies, raises the question: What other types of measures can we use in conjunction with these proven crime-fighting tools to increase the detection of criminals and prevent crime? One recommendation, provided by the Second Deputy Commissioner of NCPD, William Flanagan, would be to use LPR cameras in conjunction with Shot Spotter, so that one can not only 'hear' the gun shots but can also 'see' the offender who discharged the firearm.

Monthly Update on Security Issues

Gang member latest to join FBI's Ten Most Wanted Fugitives List. This article by CNN has links to many stories on the FBI and details the newest entrant to the FBI's most wanted list: <http://edition.cnn.com/2009/CRIME/10/19/california.fbi.ten.most.wanted/index.html>

Detroit's Infamous 'Devils' Night' Comes Early, Eleven houses burned within 90 minutes on Oct. 11.

Catch up on the Law Enforcement News latest story that abandoned buildings are targets for Halloween fires: <http://www.officer.com/online/article.jsp?siteSection=1&id=48934>

U.S. Pentagon scientist arrested on spy charge. The scientist is alleged to be involved in the attempted transfer of classified information to an Israeli agent: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2009/oct/19/scientist-arrested-spy-charges-worked-dod/>

Five Technologies That Could Change Everything. Ever wondered what technologies could change the world we live in as we try to shift from our dependence on fossil fuels: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703746604574461342682276898.html?mod=WSJ_hpp_MIDDLENexttoWhatsNewsTop

Volunteers form new team for search and rescue. The formation of a volunteer search and rescue team serving Western New York was announced today by Erie County Sheriff Tim Howard and state Department of Environmental Conservation rangers: <http://www.buffalonews.com/258/story/830574.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

Protect New York
Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute
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Albany, New York

We are on the web
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 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*.