

Protect New York: Newsletter

Special points of interest:

- New technology used in the health care industry.
- Mass surveillance measures.
- Homeland security and emergency personnel.
- Biomedical research, disease control and prevention.
- Contingency planning, emergency and natural disaster management.

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New Technology in the Field

The Obama administration has stressed the need for all citizens to have electronic medical records. As such, paramount are concerns for the protection of patient identity and medical data in the health care industry. Palm vein biometrics (or vascular recognition) technology are being presented as a means with which to secure patient's data. The technology involves the capturing of an individual's vein pattern by an infrared light. The image is then verified against a pattern that exists in a register. After the pattern has been verified, the individual's identity is authenticated.

Food for Thought: Mass Surveillance in New York City

New York City has decided to take a leaf out of London's counterterrorism playbook. The Lower Manhattan Security Initiative, a mass surveillance initiative consisting of a network of surveillance cameras, license plate readers, and chemical, biological, and radiological weapons sensors protecting high-profile buildings, institutions, bridges and infrastructure in lower Manhattan, mirrors London's "Ring of Steel". The "Ring of Steel", which also includes concrete barriers, roadblocks, and checkpoints, was initially developed to deal with a domestic terrorist group known as the Irish Republican Army (IRA). Since then, it has helped combat international and home-grown terrorists

(e.g. al-Qaeda and its allies). A case in point is that the network of surveillance cameras deployed in London not only helped identify the perpetrators of the bombings of the London mass transit system in July 7, 2005 but also helped track the suspects of the failed attempt to bomb London's city transit systems on July 21, 2005.

The Lower Manhattan Security Initiative is set to expand by 2010 and include midtown, which covers the streets between 30th St. and 60th St. and includes notable landmarks such as, the United Nations and the Empire State building.

Since these mass surveillance measures have been implemented elsewhere, it would be prudent of New York City

officials to consider the efficacy of these measures in the country they have been implemented in for quite some time. Recent reports in the United Kingdom show that the 2 million closed circuit televisions (CCTVs) in London have been largely ineffective as crime prevention tools. In August 2009, a senior Scotland Yard officer, Detective Chief Inspector Mick Neville, stated that fewer than one crime is solved per 1,000 surveillance cameras in London. Why were these figures so dismal? And what does this mean for the crime (and terrorism) fighting effectiveness of these measures in Manhattan?

Monthly Update on Security Issues

China Reports 8 Cases of Swine Flu Mutation China has detected eight cases of swine flu mutation, amid longstanding concerns among scientists that the virus could change into a more dangerous form. Read more at: http://www.newsmax.com/science/as_china_flu_mutation/2009/11/25/290754.html

Cuba conducts war games with U.S. invasion in mind Cuba began its biggest military maneuvers in five years, saying they were needed to prepare for a possible invasion by the United States. Read more at: <http://www.reuters.com/article/newsMaps/idUSTRE5AP45P20091126>

National Center for Biomedical Research and Training Academy of Counter Terrorist Education Visit the Louisiana State University's site where courses have been developed to help us prevent the spread of disease, developing emergency plans and much more. <http://www.ncbrt.lsu.edu/elearn/>

Niagara International Transportation Technology Coalition (NITTEC) is an organization of fourteen agencies in Western New York and Southern Ontario whose goal is to improve regional and international transportation mobility, promote economic competitiveness and minimize adverse environmental effects related to the regional transportation system. The system includes four international border crossings between Canada and the United States. See the traffic map and cameras at: <http://www.nittec.org/>

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
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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*.