

Protect New York: Newsletter

Special points of interest:

- Maritime cargo security.
- Airport security.
- 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

To improve maritime cargo security, GPS tracking devices and special hybrid containers are being used. In respect of the latter, security features are embedded in the walls, doors and floors of the containers. These features can detect any tampering of the contents in the container after the doors have been locked. When a breach has been detected, this technology notifies the appropriate authorities.

Food for Thought: How Do We Stop an Exploding Bomber?

In August 2009, Abdullah Asieri attempted to kill the head of Saudi Arabia's counter terrorism operations, Prince Mohammed Bin Nayef, by detonating explosives that had been inserted in his rectum. Asieri had passed through two sets of airport security before reaching the Prince. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officials were significantly concerned that such a tactic would be used on an airplane and rightly so for a similar tactic was used on Christmas day. In fact, Umar Farouk Abdulmutal-

lab managed to pass through airport security in Nigeria and Amsterdam with explosives in his underpants. Abdulmutallab's failed attempt to blow up a US passenger jet, Northwest Flight 253, over Detroit on Christmas day has caused serious concerns for US (as well as international) airport security and safety of passengers worldwide.

The use of technologies that might assist in finding such bombers before they board planes, such as "Whole Body Imaging" devices, which provide security personnel with

a detailed image of that person's naked body revealing any weapons, contraband, or explosives that they might have hidden in their clothes or on their person, have been restricted in the US by a bill passed by the House of Representatives, "H.R. 2027: Aircraft Passenger Whole-body Imaging Limitations Act of 2009". Given the current events, should these restrictions be rethought? Or are there any other less privacy invasive measures that can be used to detect such terrorists at the airports?

Monthly Update on Security Issues

10,000 H1N1 Swine Flu Deaths CDC: H1N1 Flu Sickened 1 in 6 Americans by Mid-November

The CDC estimated that by mid November H1N1 swine flu killed 10,000 Americans, sent 213,000 to the hospital, and sickened 50 million - a sixth of the population. Read more at:
<http://www.webmd.com/cold-and-flu/news/20091210/10-thousand-h1n1-swine-flu-deaths>

Homeland Insecurity the U.S. is facing rising terror threats from its own citizens. What made the country safer after 9/11 is changing, and not for the better, argues Daniel Bydman

The US is facing up to the unpleasant reality that countries such as the UK have long since known – our fellow citizens are often responsible for terror threats.....
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704517504574589841594836308.html>

Feds Weigh Public Risks in Hunting Terrorists

Where does the balance lie between public safety vs. risk?
<http://newsmax.com/US/terrorism-fbi-us-investigation/2009/12/13/id/342043>

Mexican Violence's Effect Reaches into El Paso

The spread of Mexican violence into mainland US is on the rise “A number of El Paso homes have been transformed into stash homes to store illegal drugs, guns and cash. The same phenomenon exists in Dallas, authorities say.” Read more at
http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/world/mexico/stories/DN-cemeterybox_13int.ART.State.Edition1.4bb7d79.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/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
of Government
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*.