

# Protect New York: Newsletter

## Special points of interest:

- New technology used in the communications industry.
- Public transport security.
- Homeland security and intelligence.
- Biomedical research, disease control and prevention.
- Contingency planning, emergency and natural disaster management.

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## New Technology in the Field

Kill switches are no longer limited to automobiles to prevent motor vehicle theft. They are now being used in communications technology albeit for different reasons; for e.g., to remotely delete applications that violate terms of service from users' phones. Microsoft has added to remote access of users' phones with their Digital Manner Policies (DMP) enabled devices. DMP devices could set users' phones to vibrate when individuals enter certain buildings or board a flight. They could also prevent users from using certain services and applications on their phones, such as taking photographs, in specific facilities.

## Food for Thought: Situational Crime Prevention for New York City Public Transport

In the United Kingdom, buses in the public transportation system are fully equipped with state-of-the-art surveillance technologies that provide protection for their passengers and employees. These buses are fitted with closed circuit televisions (CCTVs) – both inward looking and outward looking video-surveillance cameras – and tracking systems, such as a global positioning system (GPS). Inward looking cameras are used to deter

crimes committed against the passengers and drivers and criminal damage to the buses. Outward-looking cameras are being used for a wide-range of purposes including, among other things, parking and bus lane enforcement, performance monitoring, and monitoring road quality and road use. Buses have been also been fitted with GPS tracking systems for monitoring buses both under normal conditions and in emergency situations.

Maybe it is time to take a leaf out of the United Kingdom's book on public transportation security. What if each of our buses and subway and commuter trains in New York City became fully equipped with CCTVs and GPS tracking systems? Would this deter criminals? What about deterring an individual who decides to board a bus or train and engage in suicide terrorism? Can these security measures prevent serious crime?

## Monthly Update on Security Issues

**British Court Jeopardizes Intelligence Ties Between UK and US** "Intelligence ties between London and Washington have been jeopardized by a British court's disclosure that a terrorism suspect was beaten and shackled in U.S. custody, diplomats and security officials said" - read more at: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,585544,00.html>

**Obituary: US Congressman Charlie Wilson** As a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, the body responsible for funding CIA operations, he obtained massive increases to its Afghan budget. Some of the warlords he helped arm are today fighting US and other foreign troops in Afghanistan. A fascinating real-life story that was made into a film – read more at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/8510001.stm>

### Secret Service Computers Work at 60% Capacity; Agency Uses 1980's Mainframe

"A classified review of the United States Secret Service's computer technology found that the agency's computers were fully operational only 60 percent of the time because of outdated systems and a reliance on a computer mainframe that dates to the 1980s" - read more at: <http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/us-secret-service-outdated-computer-mainframe-system-1980s/story?id=9945663>

### Designation and Sharing of Controlled Unclassified Information

Whitehouse Memorandum For The Heads Of Executive Departments And Agencies: this memorandum establishes a standardized framework designed to facilitate and enhance the sharing of Controlled Unclassified Information - read more at: <http://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/news/releases/2008/05/20080509-6.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*.