

Protect New York: Newsletter

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Special points of interest:

- New technology used in housing.
- NYC subway system.
- Homeland security and intelligence.
- Biomedical research, disease control and prevention.
- Contingency planning, emergency and natural disaster management.



New Technology in the Field

Technology has provided a viable option for those housing units in Manhattan that cannot afford a doorman. The virtual doorman/concierge offers residents security for a fraction of the cost of having a full-time doorman employed. This technology can monitor entry and exit, open the doors and receive deliveries. Upon arrival, the virtual concierge can tell a resident if they have a package waiting for them and can tell them who came to visit them while they were away.

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Food for Thought: Preventing Jihad Janes from attacking NYC's subway system

Last month, this section covered situational crime prevention for New York City transport. The suicide bombings in Russia's subway stations (Lubyanka and Park Kultury) illustrate, once again, the need to secure our subway systems.

First, consider the following: in 2008, a home-grown terrorist, Bryant Neil Vinas, an American citizen of Peruvian and Argentinian descent with prior U.S. military service, was charged with planning to attack the United States.

Vinas informed U.S. law enforcement officials that he had provided al-Qaeda with information about the New York transit system and that al-Qaeda planned to blow up a *Long Island Rail Road* (LIRR) commuter train in New York's Penn Station.

Second, consider that the operatives in Russia were women. Recently, a female home-grown terrorist was found in the US. Specifically, Colleen LaRose, a Caucasian woman with dual citizen-

ship – American and Swedish (otherwise known as 'Jihad Jane'), demonstrates the difficulty in identifying terrorists. This, combined with the fact that al-Qaeda operatives have expressed that the next target in the US will be the subway systems, makes security of these areas of the utmost importance. With this in mind, how can we prevent 'Jihad Janes' or anyone else for that matter from attacking New York City's subway system?

Monthly Update on Security Issues

CIA director says secret attacks in Pakistan have hobbled Al Qaeda

"It's pretty clear from all the intelligence we are getting that they are having a very difficult time putting together any kind of command and control, that they are scrambling. And that we really do have them on the run." Read more at:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/17/AR2010031702558.html>

Al Qaeda websites present growing threat, FBI's Muller warns

The United States faces an expanding array of Al Qaeda-related threats that extend far beyond the lawless regions of southwest Asia and into the US itself via radical Islamist websites. Read more at:

<http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/2010/0317/Al-Qaeda-websites-present-growing-threat-FBI-s-Mueller-warns>

Afghan poppy harvest is next challenge for US Marines

The Marines and the new Marjah government are still trying to figure out how to persuade poppy growers not to harvest their crops this spring. Read more at:

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2010/03/17/1533405/afghan-poppy-harvest-is-next-challenge.html>

Obama surrenders gulf oil to Moscow

The Obama administration is poised to ban offshore oil drilling on the outer continental shelf until 2012 or beyond. Meanwhile, Russia is making a bold strategic leap to begin drilling for oil in the Gulf of Mexico. Read more at:

<http://washingtontimes.com/news/2010/mar/18/obama-surrenders-gulf-oil-to-moscow/>

Iran Tried to Buy the Pakistani Bomb, What Was China's Role?

Iran tried to buy three nuclear weapons from Pakistan at the end of the 1980s. Islamabad rebuffed the attempt but ended up transferring to Tehran bomb blueprints, centrifuge parts, and a list of black market suppliers of components. Read more at:

<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2010/03/17/gordon-g-chang-iran-pakistan-china-dr-khan/>

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 Telecommu-

nications 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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We are on the web
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 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*.