PROTECT NEW YORK

# Protect New York: Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 1 Newsletter Date: October 2010

**Special points of interest:**

- Decryption
- Internet data surveillance
- Anthrax
- Stealth Jihad
- Al-Qaeda
- Border security

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## New Technology in Field: RIM Decryption for the Blackberry

Research in Motion (RIM) has afforded Blackberry users with total security to their encrypted files. Back door keys do not exist to prevent anyone other than the Blackberry user from accessing encrypted files. However, a ban on Blackberry services has been threatened by several countries unless RIM grants them with a back door key to the encrypted files.

## Food for Thought: New Powers Sought for the FBI Concerning Customers' Internet Data

The Obama administration has asked Congress to amend the Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986. This amendment will provide the FBI with access to customers' internet data for terrorism or intelligence investigations. Such access will be provided without the need of a court order. The type of information that is sought without a court order includes: email addresses of messages that were sent and received, the time and date of these messages, and the internet browser history of users. Government lawyers have argued that access is not sought to the content of internet data. However, with internet data it is difficult to distinguish between content and non-content information. Certain types of non-content data can be just as revealing as content data. Indeed, the types of non-content data mentioned above can reveal private information about citizens using communications by revealing, among other things, their contacts (whom they email), relationships with contacts (from the frequency of communication) and interests, political views, sexual preferences, religious affiliations, and so on (through the internet browser history). When viewed together, these types of data can provide a detailed account of an individual's private life. Can the access to such private data without judicial review be legally justified?

## Monthly Update on Security Issues

**GAO to Take Look at FBI Anthrax Probe**
'The Federal Bureau of Investigation's eight-year probe of the 2001 anthrax attacks has left many doubters. Now lawmakers are ordering another look at the FBI's investigation.' Read more at: http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2010/09/16/gao-to-take-new-look-at-fbi-anthrax-probe/

**America Exposed to 'Stealth Jihad' Threat, Security Report Warns**
The report, sponsored by the Center for Security Policy and touted by a handful of conservative lawmakers on Capitol Hill, said that the violent threat posed by Al Qaeda and other terror groups is outmatched by the threat from jihadists allegedly trying to change American society from within. Read more at:
http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2010/09/15/america-threatened-stealth-jihad-security-report-warns/?test=latestnews

**Blogger boom tests China's leaders**
The New York Times has a fascinating piece by columnist Thomas Friedman about the swelling regiment of bloggers in China. The number is estimated to be 70 million and rising. Read more at:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/thereporters/mattfrei/2010/09/the_chinese_blogger_boom_tests.html

**Aid to Fight Qaeda in Yemen Divides U.S. Officials**
'Senior State Department and American military officials are deeply divided over the pace and scale of military aid to Yemen, which is emerging as a crucial testing ground for the Obama administration's approach to countering the threat from Al Qaeda.' Read more at:
http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/16/world/middleeast/16yemen.html?_r=2&ref=global-home

**Stealing Across the Border**
'After several years of decline, thefts of luxury cars and heavy duty equipment such as tractors and trucks are surging along Germany's eastern border.' Read more at:
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704190704575489561080710780.html

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## General Interests Sites

**The Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security/ Homeland Security Digital Library.** Provides open access to over 40,900 U.S. Federal Government documents and academic theses. Read more at: http://hsdl.org/

**New York City Fire Department.** Their main website is:
http://www.nyc.gov/html/fdny/html/home2.shtml

**The Virtual Report.** HazMat/WMD Training and Situational Awareness information may be found here; you are required to register: http://www.hazmatiq.com/?cat=12

***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

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## 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 marasm@farmingdale.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'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*.