

Protect New York: Newsletter

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Special points of interest:

- National Cyber-security Policy
- Active Shooters
- Al-Awlaki Role in 9/11 Attack
- Al-Shabaab's Weapons Shipment
- Border Wars

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Security Update ~ Comprehensive National Cybersecurity Bill

Currently, US government officials and legislative bodies are engaging in discussions over a comprehensive national cybersecurity bill. The current proposed bill creates national standards for data breaches and requires, among other things, the notification of customers about any data security breaches such as cyberattacks and identify theft. An agreement on this bill has yet to be reached.

Food for Thought ~ Coordinated Attacks on Vehicles: Reassessing the Threat of Active Shooters

Terrorists engaged in coordinated attacks on vehicles (a military vehicle, two private vehicles and two buses) that lasted less than an hour near Israel's border with Egypt on August 18, 2011. These individuals began their attack by shooting at their targets with automatic weapons. Other weapons they used were improvised explosive devices, mortar shells and anti-tank missiles. Attacks on motor vehicles in Israel are not a new tactic; although usually such attacks are perpetrated by suicide bombers and not active shooters. Beyond Israel, counterterrorism discourse seems to focus extensively on bombings. What if active shooters are involved in the next terrorist attack in the United States? Is New York prepared for such an attack?

The New York City Police Department has noted the risk from a coordinated terrorist attack that involves multiple targets using firearms, explosives or a combination of both in New York City. Additionally, active shooters are a constant threat to the security of transportation areas, workplaces, public venues, government facilities and schools. The numerous shooting incidents that have occurred in these areas in the past attests to this. How can such areas be secured in New York? What form of security measures are required to prevent a terrorist attack by active shooters?

Monthly Update on Security Issues

House to Probe Muslim Operative's Mysterious Role in 9/11

'The House Homeland Security Committee has asked the Justice Department for help in investigating whether extremist Muslim cleric Anwar al-Awlaki played a key role in harboring the 9/11 terrorists prior to the attacks.' Read more at: <http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/awlaki-house-king-probe/2011/08/16/id/407577>

IED at Oklahoma Natural Gas Pumping Station Highlighted Vulnerability

'As *Homeland Security Today* reported, the bomb was found by Enerfin engineers under the pipeline where compressed natural gas transmission pipelines like this one are above ground as they enter and exit what are called compressor stations.' Read more at: <http://www.hstoday.us/industry-news/general/single-article/ied-at-oklahoma-natural-gas-pumping-station-highlighted-vulnerability/71accc0593d23d4659e6625b894dda71.html>

U.S intercepts ship suspected of carrying weapons for Al-Shabaab

The U.S Navy has intercepted a Somalia bound Yemeni cargo ship carrying weapons suspected to be for Somalia's Al-Shabaab militia. Read more at: <http://www.bar-kulan.com/2011/08/15/u-s-intercepts-ship-suspected-of-carrying-weapons-for-al-shabaab/>

Border wars: Secrets of the U.S. Border Patrol revealed at El Paso museum

'Many of the museum's confiscated artifacts are testimony to the greed of drug runners and people smugglers. But they also illustrate how desperation breeds ingenuity. They're both riveting and sad.' Read more at: <http://travel.usatoday.com/destinations/dispatches/post/2011/08/secrets-of-the-us-border-patrol-revealed-at-el-paso-museum/414675/1>

Security Expert: US Should Be Wary of China Space Exploration

'Several Chinese advancements could be considered measures challenging U.S. space superiority' Read more at: <http://www.newsmax.com/TheWire/China-space-exploration/2011/08/17/id/407679>

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



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 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 in 2008. She also has graduate degrees in Criminology and Criminal Justice (University of Oxford) 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 Partner in Glenochil Associates LLC, and the Academic Director for the National Association of Purchasing Managers (Buffalo). 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*.