

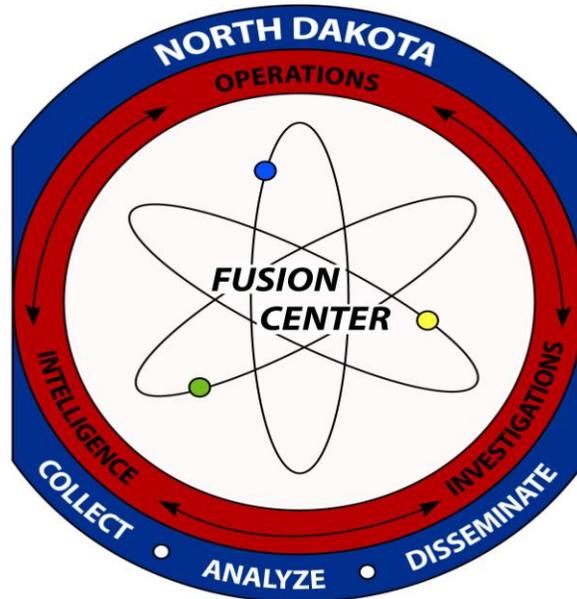


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North Dakota Homeland Security "Open Source" Anti-Terrorism Summary

January 12, 2010



The North Dakota All Source Anti-Terrorism Summary is a product of the North Dakota Fusion Center. It provides open source news articles and information on terrorism, crime, and potential destructive or damaging acts of nature or unintentional acts. Articles are placed in the Anti-Terrorism Summary to provide situational awareness for local law enforcement, first responders, government officials, and private/public infrastructure owners.

If you have any comments to improve this summary or local information you would like to see in the summary please send the information to ndfusion@nd.gov

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QUICK LINKS

North Dakota

Regional

National

International

Banking and Finance Industry

Chemical and Hazardous Materials Sector

Commercial Facilities

Communications Sector

Critical Manufacturing

Defense Industrial Base Sector

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Government Sector (including Schools and Universities)

Information Technology and Telecommunications

National Monuments and Icons

Postal and Shipping

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NORTH DAKOTA

Area dams release water over winter. Jamestown and Pipestem dams in North Dakota are continuing to release water this winter, according to the dam manager at Pipestem Dam. The releases are intended to maintain the proper water levels through the winter. “We’re releasing 12 cubic feet per second from the Pipestem Dam,” he said. “That is about the same as last year although we don’t normally release water from Pipestem during the winter.” He said the releases are matching the inflows to the lake from springs and ground water. The lake is currently at 1,442.7 feet mean sea level or about 3 inches above the conservation pool level of 1,442.5 feet msl. The Pipestem Dam peaked at 1,492.5 feet msl last spring. “Normally we wouldn’t draw below the conservation pool level except for inspections or repairs,” he said. Releases from the Jamestown Dam are 13 cfs at this time. The level of the lake is 1,429.3 feet msl and is climbing slightly. Monitoring the snowpack in the drainage area of the lakes is scheduled to start in February although there are no indications of possible flood problems at this time. Source:

<http://www.jamestownsun.com/event/article/id/102226/group/News/>

Burleigh will oversee Emmons County's emergency management

After a 20-minute executive session, the Burleigh County Commission agreed Wednesday to oversee Emmons County's emergency management operations on a trial basis. The contract is scheduled to begin today and run through June. Under the joint powers agreement, Emmons County will pay Burleigh County \$1,361 per month for at least six months. Burleigh County Emergency Manager Mary Senger will be paid \$35 per hour for any additional time spent on Emmons County duties beyond her

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normal work day for Burleigh County."Emmons County does not currently have an emergency manager," Senger said after the meeting. She said Emmons County approached Burleigh County about contracting for emergency services. "It will be for six months and then we'll see what they want to do from there," Senger said. She said the previous emergency manager's job had been a consolidated with the superintendent of schools and other duties. Senger said her work for Emmons County will be similar to what she already does here. She does not know how many hours will be needed for Emmons County per week."I'll be making sure their emergency services operation plan is up to date, their resources are up to date, their Homeland Security grants, Department of Emergency Service grants, quarterly reports are done ... and facilitate some of their meetings for planning." Senger said she also will help Emmons County officials with forms from 2009 flooding. "They are strong in their recovery phase. So they have a lot of paperwork that needs attention for FEMA reimbursements and the filing of all of that," she said. Emmons County still will have a separate emergency management budget. "They do have an emergency plan. It's just to be sure that it gets updated and revised as needed," Senger said. Senger said the additional responsibilities are for emergency management only and do not cover communications systems, 911 or dispatch for Emmons County. If emergencies hit both counties, she said, someone will be trained for partial duties in Emmons County until she can get there. "When Burleigh County is out of harm's way, I can help Emmons County," Senger said. Commissioner Mark Armstrong was named the new chairman of the Burleigh County Commission during the 2010 annual reorganization meeting. Commissioner Brian Bitner was selected vice chairman. Commissioners typically rotate the top posts every year. All commissioners agreed to keep their same portfolio assignments. In other business, the commission appointed Gregory Bailey to the Burleigh County Weed Board and Ken Selzler to Bismarck City Planning Commission.(Reach reporter LeAnn Eckroth at 250-8264 or leann.eckroth@bismarcktribune.com.)

Wahpeton leaders consider ways to keep snowmobiles off of levees. The Wahpeton, North Dakota, Public Works Committee say a snowmobiling ban is a last resort, but something needs to be done to keep snowmobilers off levees. The committee got a complaint about a snowmobile hitting a sign on the south side of town. Right now, the city is talking about what to do: whether it is stepping up enforcement, making tighter rules, putting up fences, or a ban on riding in city limits. "So, instead of having that availability of making that quickest route directly from their garage where the rails are, they'd have to load up the ATV or snowmobile on a trailer and then transport it to that destination." The Public Works Committee is planning to talk with snowmobile association officials and get their input on how to solve this issue. Source: <http://www.wday.com/event/article/id/28437/group/YourCity/>

REGIONAL

Cattle tuberculosis confirmed in South Dakota. A Yankton County, South Dakota cattle herd has been found positive for bovine tuberculosis (TB) after a 3-year-old cow from the herd was confirmed to be infected with the disease. A state veterinarian said the herd has been quarantined for additional testing. "At this time, there is only one confirmed case, but we are taking all of the necessary precautions," the veterinarian said. The veterinarian added that South Dakota remains a TB Accredited Free state and has had that status since 1982. The finding of a single affected beef herd will not automatically impact the Accredited TB-free status of the entire state. Source: <http://usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=38&yr=2010>

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NATIONAL

Explosives removed from Spokane Valley apartment. Explosives popular among suicide bombers were removed Monday from a Spokane Valley apartment belonging to a man upset about his divorce, authorities said. The accused man, 53, allowed detectives into his home at the Oakwood Club Apartments, on N. McDonald Road, and showed them the material, which was stored in a glass jar, according to the Spokane County Sheriff's Office. The apartment complex had been evacuated but officials expected to begin letting residents into their units later that night. Residents along the west side of Broadway were asked to stay inside, and a portion of McDonald Road was blocked. A bomb squad planned to detonate the estimated half pound of "very potent, very unstable explosives," identified as acetone peroxide, or TATP, in a secure location, said a sergeant said. The material was removed from the home by a robot about 8 p.m. The man was transported by ambulance to the Spokane County Jail, where he was booked on a civil bench warrant. He faces possible criminal charges related to manufacturing and possession explosives said. It was unclear what initially brought him to the attention of law enforcement, but detectives learned he was upset about his divorce proceedings in Spokane County Superior Court and might be building bombs. The substance is sometimes used by suicide bombers, according to terrorism experts at GlobalSecurity.org. Source: <http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2010/jan/04/bomb-squad-called-valley-apartments-evacuated/>

INTERNATIONAL

Western Intel warns Gulf states of Qaeda attacks: report. Western intelligence has warned energy-rich Gulf states that Al-Qaeda is on the verge of launching attacks mainly on ships after regrouping in the past few months, the Al-Qabas daily reported Thursday. Citing unnamed Kuwaiti security sources, the daily said that Al-Qaeda has trained operatives in the region to carry out attacks on war, commercial, and passenger vessels in the Gulf and Arabian Sea. Western intelligence has urged Gulf states to boost security measures to provide protection for ships, especially oil and gas tankers, the Kuwaiti security sources said. The Al-Qaeda network has been able to regroup over the past few months, taking advantage of deteriorating security in Somalia and Yemen, and has successfully established command and control bases in the two countries, the sources said. They added that Qaeda operatives in Somalia have in recent weeks captured advanced weapons from government forces and transferred them to their counterparts in Yemen. Source: http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5giFz8SbH7-rzSAV_Y-Pjby-wwYfw

Malaysia Church Attacks Continue

Two more Christian churches were attacked in the majority Muslim country of Malaysia on Monday, bringing the total number of houses of worship that have been targeted by extremists since Friday to nine. In the first incident on Monday, a homemade gasoline bomb exploded at an evangelical Christian church, burning the building's door and entranceway. No one was injured in the attack. In the second incident, a church was vandalized with black paint. Both attacks, which a government minister said were the work of extremists, appear to be related to the fallout from a High Court ruling last month that overturned a government ban on non-Muslims using the word "Allah." Muslim groups in Malaysia are upset that Christians will be allowed to use the word Allah, saying that using a word that is closely associated with Islam could be a tactic to win converts.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/8451630.stm>

Molotov cocktail tossed into Hamilton mosque. The Hamilton, Ontario, police arson and hate crimes units are investigating after a Molotov cocktail was thrown into a mosque overnight. Police were called to the Hamilton Mosque and discovered the firebomb had been thrown through a window of the Islamic school at the mosque. It landed in the principal's office and ignited. Police say damage is estimated at \$3,000. About 200 children attend the school. Source:

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/canada/breakingnews/Molotov-cocktail-tossed-into-Hamilton-mosque-hate-crimes-unit-probes.html>

Slide city mayor seeks Brazil nuke plant shutdown. The mayor of a mudslide-devastated city has urged a precautionary shutdown of Brazil's only nuclear power plants due to blocked highways while the death toll from flooding and slides rose to 75. The mayor of Angra dos Reis said on Sunday that while the nuclear power plants are not damaged or threatened, mudslides that have killed at least 44 people in his city alone have disrupted escape routes needed to cope with any emergency. "We don't want any risk," said the mayor, whose municipality has about 120,000 people. "We want to avoid a future problem." There was no immediate response from higher authorities, but officials of Brazil's state-run nuclear energy company Electronuclear said a temporary closure of the plants would not seriously hurt the country's power supply, according to Globo TV. On Saturday, before the mayor's request, the company said a shutdown was not necessary. Source:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/04/AR2010010400898.html>

BANKING AND FINANCE INDUSTRY

Bank reports appearance of fake cashier's checks. ProBank of Tallahassee, Florida, has contacted the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. to report that counterfeit cashier's checks bearing the institution's name are in circulation. The FDIC issued an alert Thursday morning regarding the matter. The counterfeit items display the routing number 063116407, which is assigned to ProBank. A security feature statement is embedded in the top and bottom borders. The words "CASHIER'S CHECK" (spelled with an apostrophe) are in the top-right corner. The words "Tallahassee, FL" are shown below the bank's name in the top-left corner. The FDIC said authentic cashier checks are light blue and graduate horizontally to white in the center. A padlock and vertical security feature statement are along the right border. The words "CASHIER'S CHECK" (spelled without an apostrophe), "Date" and "Branch" are in the top-right corner. The word "REMITTER" is shown below the bank's name in the top-left corner. Regulators cautioned that the appearance of counterfeit items can be modified and that additional variations may be presented. Source:

<http://www.tallahassee.com/article/20100107/BREAKINGNEWS/100107003/Bank-reports-appearance-of-fake-cashier-s-checks>

Secret Service advises consumers on skimming fraud. Skimming has been described as one of the most significant problems facing the credit card industry, as it can happen anywhere a credit card is accepted. According to special agents of the U.S. Secret Service's Atlanta Field Office, the best way for consumers to protect themselves from skimming is by paying attention to the details of credit card usage. "Fraudulent transactions frequently occur within 24 to 48 hours of a compromise, but most cardholders are not aware that they have been victimized until they receive statements showing the fraudulent charges," said the Special Agent in Charge of the Atlanta Field Office. "That's why one important step every individual can take is to regularly review your credit card statements online."

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When a credit card is skimmed, data on the card, including the account number, is electronically transmitted or stored. The credit card information can then be encoded onto a lost, stolen, or counterfeit credit card and used anywhere in the world. Source:

http://www.daltondailycitizen.com/local/local_story_006113531.html

Collins Community Credit Union card holders targeted in phishing scam. Police are urging Collins Community Credit Union card holders to ignore any automated phone calls telling them their cards have been deactivated. Confused customers started calling Collins Community Credit Union administrators last night saying that they had received a robo-call telling them that their debit and credit cards were no longer valid and that they would have to call a 1-800 number to reactivate their accounts. A Cedar Rapids police sergeant says it's a textbook "phishing" scam where some party, usually from out of state or even out of the country, targets a bank or credit union and uses robo-calls to get the personal account information of trusting account holders. The sergeant said that the credit union has had more than 20 calls from clients who called the 1-800 number and released their information. Source: <http://www.kcrg.com/news/local/80755872.html>

Rhea County: 2 nabbed in bank bomb threat. Officers arrested two people in connection with a bomb threat on January 5 that led authorities to evacuate and close some schools in Tennessee. Dayton Police officers along with the Rhea County Sheriff's Office and the FBI arrested the two suspects around 10 p.m. on January 5, said the sheriff office's special projects coordinator. Both men are charged with attempted bank robbery and several more charges are still pending, the coordinator said. Authorities evacuated three schools and dismissed classes at all city and county schools on January 5 after Dayton police read a typed note that had been posted on the First Bank of Tennessee front door. The note stated that six bombs, including some in schools, would blow up if "a large sum of money" was not placed outside the bank. No explosives were found and no money was turned over, authorities said. Source: <http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2010/jan/06/rhea-county-2-nabbed-bank-bomb-threat/?breakingnews>

Pipe bomb suspected in LJ bank blast. Investigators suspect a homemade pipe bomb damaged a bank's drive-through teller window early January 4, but told a bank official the explosion was in line with horseplay. Two residents reported hearing an explosion at around 12:50 a.m., but it was not until almost two hours later that police were able to find its source. That was when a 32-year-old Brazoria woman stopped to use the night deposit slot at First National Bank in the 100 block of West Way and saw a hole in the teller window. No one entered or took money from the bank, a police lieutenant said. "We're still looking for motivation," the lieutenant said. The FBI has ruled out the explosion being connected to any terroristic plans, but said it was more in line with horseplay, said the senior vice president of First National Bank of Lake Jackson. Pieces of the explosive found in the window indicate it might have been a homemade pipe bomb, the lieutenant said. "It was a substantial explosion," he said. However, no alarms were received from the bank, he said. Source: <http://thefacts.com/story.lasso?ewcd=138b661c502bbf37>

CHEMICAL AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SECTOR

Food Club ammonia recalled. Online Packaging Inc. is recalling about 75 bottles of Food Club Supreme Clean Clear Ammonia. The bottle, which is labeled as containing ammonia, actually contains household bleach. The mislabeling of the bottles can pose a chemical hazard to consumers. If bleach

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is accidentally mixed with ammonia or acid, irritating or toxic gases could be produced. This recall involves Food Club Supreme Clean Clear Ammonia that is packaged in a 64 ounce white bottle with the date code 232 stenciled on the lower shoulder of the bottle. The ammonia was sold at Piggly Wiggly Midwest stores from August 2009 through September 2009. Consumers should immediately return the product to Piggly Wiggly for a full refund or dispose of the bleach in accordance with state and local requirements. Source: http://www.consumeraffairs.com/recalls04/2010/food_club.html

COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

N. California rocked by quake. A powerful offshore earthquake rattled communities in far northern California, cutting power to thousands of customers, causing minor damage to homes and businesses, and forcing many people to seek treatment for cuts and bruises from falling debris. The 6.5 magnitude temblor hit at about 4:27 p.m. Saturday and was centered in the Pacific Ocean about 22 miles west of Ferndale. Dozens of people suffered minor injuries. In Eureka, north of Ferndale, residents of an apartment building were evacuated, and an office building and two other commercial structures in the town of about 26,000 people were declared unsafe for occupancy, according to a Humboldt County spokesman. Several people received minor cuts and scrapes from broken glass at the Bayshore Mall in Eureka, and an elderly person fell and broke a hip, authorities said. Source: <http://www.caycompass.com/cgi-bin/CFPnews.cgi?ID=10388551>

UPS Facility Shooting Blamed on Workplace Feud

Three people were wounded in a double shooting at the UPS Customer Center Richmond Facility in Richmond, Calif., on Sunday. Police say the incident began around 9 a.m., when a UPS employee opened fire on a colleague in the facility's loading area, hitting him in the face and upper body. Authorities say a third employee then shot and wounded the first shooter. The first gunman was then found wounded in a nearby backyard and was arrested on charges of assault with a deadly weapon. The second shooter remains at large. Sgt. Bisa French, a public information officer with the Richmond Police Department, said that while details of the incident are still sketchy, authorities believe that the shooting may be related to a recent feud among the employees. <http://www.ktvu.com/news/22201309/detail.html>

Oxnard Park evacuated, school locked down after suspicious package found. The discovery of a suspicious package sparked a school lockdown and park evacuation Thursday morning in Oxnard, but authorities later deemed it was not a threat. Oxnard city employees were working about 8:40 a.m. at Southbank Park in the 2500 block of Woodside Place when they found the package and a note with it, police said. The park was evacuated and Rio Del Norte School locked down while Oxnard police and members of the Sheriff's Department bomb squad assessed the package. Authorities determined the package was not a threat, and the park and school reopened about 11:10 a.m. Further details were not immediately available. Source: <http://www.vcstar.com/news/2010/jan/07/oxnard-park-evacuated-school-locked-down-after/>

Central Y evacuated, following day care center bomb threat. At approximately 7:50 am on January 7, Wilmington Police were advised by the staff of the YMCA on 11th Street that an anonymous caller had called the children's day care center and the reception desk and stated "I am gonna blow the place up." The building was evacuated without incident. During the evacuation, it was learned that there was a suspicious package on the eastern roof of the day care center along the 1100 Blk. of

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Washington Street. Wilmington's explosive ordinance detonation team along with bomb sniffing K-9s and uniformed officers made a complete sweep of the building and found that the package was safe and full of miscellaneous items. At approximately 12:35 am, officers on scene along with the staff were satisfied there was no threat and everyone evacuated was allowed to return into the building.

Source:

<http://www.ledgerdelaware.com/articles/2010/01/07/news/doc4b463b47b8332735989025.txt>

Authorities say Spa Resort bomb threat was a hoax. Authorities believe a bomb threat against the Agua Caliente Spa Resort Casino was a hoax and are looking for the man who made the threat Tuesday as he repeatedly phoned police, a Palm Springs police spokeswoman said. An unidentified man called police just before 5 a.m. Tuesday and threatened to blow up the casino, according to a police department spokeswoman. "Officers conducted a thorough check of the casino property and surrounding area and did not find anything suspicious," she said. Police also notified casino management, which agreed to use its own security to keep customers safe from any threats, she added. Authorities were able to track a cellular call to the 4000 block of Matthew Drive and sent officers to search the nearby residential area. The officers did not find anything suspicious, she said. She added that a report was taken on the calls and threats, and police are still trying to determine exactly who made the calls. Source:

<http://www.mydesert.com/article/20100107/NEWS0801/1070313/1015/news08/Authorities-say-Spa-Resort-bomb-threat-was-a-hoax>

Niles men arrested in break-in. Three Niles men were arrested just after 11 p.m. Monday after police claim they caught them inside the vacant Delphi Packard Electric plant in Warren. It was the third time in two weeks that people were caught inside the 408 Dana St. N.E. plant, with previous break-ins occurring December 21 and 29. They each were arraigned Tuesday in Warren Municipal Court on felony charges of breaking and entering and possession of criminal tools. On December 21, three Warren men were arrested after being caught outside the plant carrying stolen copper. On December 29, a man and woman were arrested inside the vacant plant about 2 a.m. after officers were called to the area to investigate two people seen on the railroad tracks. Following the first break-in at the plant December 21, a councilman said he was concerned about the lack of security at the former Delphi plant. He said all the lights along the side facing the Powerhouse Bar had been shot off, and it was extremely dark. He requested a meeting between Delphi security personnel, the police chief, fire chief and the administration to discuss the issue. "That plant is going to be stripped clean, and no one will want to buy it," he said. Source:

<http://www.tribtoday.com/page/content.detail/id/531901.html?nav=5021>

Fake bomb threat evacuates an Anaheim Home Depot store. A home improvement store in Anaheim was evacuated just before closing time because of a false bomb threat made from an untraceable cell phone, police said. The threat was received about 9:50 p.m. Monday at the Home Depot store in the 1000 block of North Pullman Street off North Weir Canyon Road, said a sergeant with the Anaheim Police Department. About 65 employees and 10 customers were evacuated as a precaution, the sergeant said, adding that a search of the store turned up no bomb. Source:

http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_14123889

Patrols increased after O.C. mosque attacks. Police in Costa Mesa, California, have increased patrols near an Orange County mosque that was targeted in recent anti-Islamic attacks. A burned and torn

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copy of the Koran was found during New Year's Day prayers at the Islamic Educational Center of Orange County. It was the second time in about two weeks that a desecrated Koran was found at the mosque. "This deplorable incident is a form of anti-Islamic assault, hate crime and terror campaign against American Muslims," a statement on the Costa Mesa mosque's Web site read. Vandals also recently defaced part of an outdoor interfaith holiday display in Mission Viejo. According to police, the vandals painted over a verse from the Koran and left behind a piece of paper reading, "No Islamic Lighthouses in the U.S.A." The Christian components of the holiday were untouched. The Costa Mesa Police Department has stepped up patrols in the area but no arrests have been made. The incidents are thought to be unrelated but appear to be part of a recent increase in anti-Muslim acts across the nation following the attempted terrorist bombing of a jetliner headed to Detroit on Christmas, a council spokeswoman told the Los Angeles Times. Source: <http://www.ktla.com/news/landing/ktla-mosque-vandalized,0,6306717.story>

Doctor charged with torching Seneca clinic. Police in Seneca, South Carolina, arrested an area doctor after officers said he tried to burn down his clinic. He was charged with arson and making a false statement in support of a claim to obtain insurance benefits for fire loss, FOX Carolina News reported. Authorities said the incident occurred Friday at about 7:02 a.m. at the Office of Nephrologists and Internal Medicine in Seneca. Police and fire departments said they were called to the scene after a smoke alarm alerted authorities that the building was on fire and emitting heavy smoke. The fire was extinguished quickly and the cause was determined to be arson, police said. Police said the damage to the clinic is estimated at \$200,000. Source: <http://www.foxcarolina.com/news/22109897/detail.html>

COMMUNICATIONS

Cellular group says mobile calls safe from hackers: A wireless industry group said mobile phone conversations are safe from eavesdropping, even after a German security expert released the code for unscrambling calls made using most of the world's cell phones. Concerns spread last week that cell phone calls could easily be intercepted after encryption expert Karsten Nohl unveiled his research at Europe's largest hacking conference, in Berlin. The London-based GSM Association said on Thursday that it has spent the past few years figuring out ways to thwart hackers who might try to tap into wireless calls using Nohl's research, which it first learned of in 2007. GSM Association engineers have figured out a short-term solution to block eavesdroppers, said James Moran, head of security for the association. It involves making slight changes to the settings in each wireless operator's network. ... Nohl's research applies to GSM technology, which runs about 80 percent of the world's mobile phones, including systems run by AT&T Inc, Deutsche Telekom and France Telecom. Over the next several years, GSM carriers will adopt a new standard for encrypting, or scrambling, voice conversations that will be tougher to crack, according to Moran. [Date: 7 January 2010; Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE60641G20100107?type=technologyNews>]

Glitch in some RI Verizon internet services. Verizon says it is working to fix a glitch that has left some Rhode Island customers without Internet or video-on-demand services. Company officials said on January 7 they believe a router problem caused the outage. Verizon was unsure how many customers have been affected. Fiber optic television and telephone service are operating normally. Source: <http://www.abc6.com/news/80915722.html>

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DOJ recommends FCC quickly free up more spectrum. Supporting wireless broadband providers is key to encouraging broadband competition, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) advised the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on January 4. In a filing submitted in response to an FCC request for comments on its national broadband plan, the DOJ said that it is unrealistic to try to promote “textbook markets of perfect competition” since the provision of broadband services is so costly. “Rather, promoting competition is likely to take the form of enabling additional entry and expansion by wireless broadband providers,” among other activities, the DOJ wrote. That means the FCC must work hard to quickly make more spectrum available for wireless broadband services, the agency said. “We urge the Commission to give priority to making more spectrum available to wireless broadband providers so as to maximize their potential to compete against the established wireline ones,” the DOJ wrote. “There is no time to spare.” Once the FCC identifies and frees up new spectrum, it should devise a way to ensure that new, competitive providers win the spectrum, the DOJ said. That has been a thorny issue historically and the DOJ did not seem to have a great solution to the problem. The FCC could run an auction where incumbents’ bids are discounted — not in terms of what they pay but in order to determine who wins. But the FCC would have to be able to figure out by how much to discount the bids, the DOJ said. Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9143035/DOJ_recommends_FCC_quickly_free_up_more_spectrum

CRITICAL MANUFACTURING

3 dead after rampage at St. Louis plant. Three people are dead and five have been wounded after a man armed with an assault rifle and a handgun opened fire at a St. Louis manufacturing plant. The police captain confirmed the number. Citing two unidentified sources, NBC station KSDK reported that the suspect had been “found and removed from the building.” The gunman is believed to have shot himself, according to the report. The police captain said the suspected shooter, of Webster Groves, Missouri, is an employee of the plant. KMOX radio said he had worked for the company for 23 years. The rampage began around 6:30 a.m. during a shift change at Swiss-based ABB Group’s plant in St. Louis and 40 to 50 people were likely in the plant at the time. As shots began to ring out, employees scurried to find safety. “Many of them sought safety on the roof, in boilers and broom closets,” the police captain said. A two-mile perimeter was established around the plant and Interstate 70 was shut down. The St. Louis Fire Department set up a staging area near the plant with six ambulances on standby. The Post-Dispatch reported that the suspect was a plaintiff in a class-action federal lawsuit against ABB and its pension review committee over financial losses. Police had been told the shooter was carrying an ammunition belt. Swiss-based ABB Group makes power transmission and industrial automation equipment. The company manufactures transformers at the St. Louis site, according to its Web site. Source:

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/34746925/ns/us_news-crime_and_courts/

FAA sets safety conditions for 787’s crew rest compartments. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has published the safety conditions for unique crew rest compartments Boeing has incorporated into the 787 Dreamliner, a new, twin-engine jetliner that will have a maximum takeoff weight of 476,000 pounds and maximum passenger count of 381 passengers when in commercial use, according to FAA’s notices in the Federal Register. The second Dreamliner completed its first flight December 22 from Everett, Washington, to Seattle; the first production aircraft will be delivered next year to Japan’s All Nippon Airways. The notices, published January 4, proposed special

conditions for two overhead rest compartments, one that members of the flight crew could occupy during taxiing, takeoffs, and landings (TT&L) and a larger one that flight attendants would not occupy during TT&L. Source: <http://ohsonline.com/articles/2010/01/06/faa-sets-safety-condition.aspx?admgarea=news>

DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE SECTOR

2 truckers arrested with guns at Maine Navy yard. Police say two Pennsylvania truckers are facing charges they tried to bring concealed weapons into the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery. The Maine State Police says the handguns were discovered during a routine inspection of the truck at about 6:30 Thursday morning. The vehicle was carrying welding supplies into the Navy base. Both men were released on bail after appearing in court Friday. A Maine State Police lieutenant says the two had permits to carry concealed weapons in Pennsylvania, but not Maine. He says the two worked for a small trucking company from Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Source: <http://cbs3.com/wireapnews/2.Penn.truckers.2.1413753.html>

Work keeps A-10s in air until new wings arrive. The Air Force's oldest and most formidable close-air support plane is getting a fix to keep it flying until its new wings are ready in a couple of years. Airmen from the 309th Maintenance Wing's Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group are installing steel straps and stronger fittings to the Thunderbolt's wings. "This is an interim fix to keep the A-10s flying while the new wings are being built," the 309th AMARG center wing shop supervisor said in a statement. The new wings will beef up the Warthog's structure and give it another 20 years in the air, according to a structural engineer with the 309th AMARG. "The modifications we're giving the wing will double its service life and allow it to carry the additional load the wings are expected to carry," he said. A contract awarded in 2007 to Boeing calls for 242 new wings to be installed on original A-10 airframes by 2011. About 100 A-10s built in the 1980s are sturdier and do not need new wings. Source: http://militarytimes.com/news/2010/01/airforce_thunderbolts_010410w/

EMERGENCY SERVICES

MetroSafe taking action after 911 Twitter account surfaces. MetroSafe officials in Louisville say they are taking action after a WHAS11 News report uncovered a 911 operator's Twitter account, called "funny911calls." It appears the employee was using the Twitter account while taking 911 calls, and posting call information and criticism of 911 callers online. After the WHAS11 story Monday, MetroSafe supervisors reminded employees Tuesday of "the strict prohibition against the use of personal electronic or communications devices within our center, unauthorized release of information as well as the expectation of professional conduct." MetroSafe is investigating whether the communications specialist was at work when tweeting about 911 calls, a violation of policy. The tweets offer a running commentary. Source: <http://www.whas11.com/news/local/MetroSafe-taking-action-after-911-Twitter-account-surfaces-80746487.html>

East Palo Alto police say gunfire detection system working well. A year after East Palo Alto, California, became the first U.S. municipality to get a citywide gunfire detection system, the police department continues to sing the system's praises. The police chief and other department leaders say ShotSpotter has helped officers arrive at shooting scenes more quickly, aided in computer-assisted crime trend analyses, and contributed to a roughly 20 percent drop in firearm assaults from a year

ago. On December 31, 2007, Mountain View-based ShotSpotter Inc. activated gunfire detection sensors in a one-half-square-mile portion of the city for no charge, naming East Palo Alto its national test site for software updates. A year later, the city used a \$230,000 U.S. Department of Justice grant to extend coverage to its entire 2.5 square miles, the chief said. About 40 sensors interspersed throughout East Palo Alto now alert personnel at a San Mateo County dispatch center in Redwood City when they detect a gunshot or firecracker. Source:

http://www.insidebayarea.com/sanmateocountytimes/localnews/ci_14122325

ENERGY

Police make arrest in Canada pipeline bomb probe. An anti-energy industry activist convicted of bombing oil and gas wells a decade ago was arrested on January 8 in connection with the investigation into a series of pipeline bombings in northeastern British Columbia, his lawyer said. The man is being investigated on charges of extortion against EnCana Corp. A Royal Canadian Mounted Police inspector would not identify the man arrested as he has yet to be charged. He said prosecutors have not made a decision yet. About 30 officers were searching a farm in the western Alberta town of Hythe in connection with the case. The farm belongs to the suspect, the suspect's lawyer said. There have been six bombings of EnCana pipelines in British Columbia since October 2008, which caused only minor disruptions to pipeline operations. The suspect is well known in Alberta for his opposition to the oil and gas industry. He was sent to prison in 2001 and served two-thirds of a 28-month sentence for his role in earlier gas well bombings in Alberta. Two EnCana gas wells and one owned by Suncor Inc. were hit in 1998, and another blast cratered a road leading to a Norcen Energy well site. Police previously had said they did not consider the man a suspect in the latest pipeline bombings. He wrote an open letter to the bomber last fall appealing for a halt to the attacks. His lawyer said the man believed he had been summoned to the meeting to offer assistance to police in their investigation. Source: <http://www.pennlive.com/newsflash/index.ssf?/base/business-53/126297789847240.xml&storylist=business&thispage=1>

Investigation nabs seven in theft of \$900,000 worth of copper wire. A two-month-long investigation has helped local investigators with the Ector County Sheriff's Office and the area Oilfield Theft Task Force make seven arrests in connection with the recent theft of \$900,000 worth of copper wire and damages. Authorities said they were able to obtain some of the wire stolen but not all of it. The FBI said the group was stealing the wiring from different storage yards and reselling it to reclamation yards where it would be recycled and they would be paid by the pound. An agent with the FBI said that is the only value the stolen wire really has; copper wire is part of larger equipment used to run power to larger pieces out on oilfields. While this is not the largest case with the most arrests made by the task force, it is one of the bigger ones with a significant amount of wire that was stolen. The task force has been in existence for the past 18 months and consists of one deputy from each county involved — Midland, Ector and Andrews — as well as agents with the FBI. It is the only one of its kind in the nation and has been successful, according to authorities, in combating the ongoing theft cases and well as making the flow of information between all the involved agencies "seamless." Source: http://www.mywesttexas.com/articles/2010/01/06/news/top_stories/oilfield_task_force_arrests.txt

Boston mayor wants to block Yemeni tankers from Boston Harbor. The mayor of Boston says it is unsafe to allow tankers delivering liquefied natural gas from Yemen into Boston Harbor; "They cannot be coming into a harbor like Boston, where there is less than 50 feet between the tankers and

residential areas,' the mayor says of Yemeni tankers. The mayor said on December 31 that he will ask Boston's lawyers to see whether the city can block Yemeni tankers from delivering liquefied natural gas into Boston Harbor, calling such deliveries "wrong." The mayor and several other public officials said they would press for the tankers' cargo — destined for an LNG terminal in Everett as soon as next month — instead to be unloaded away from the city, in light of the failed Christmas Day attempt by a Nigerian man, who trained in Yemen, to blow up a U.S. airliner over Detroit. The Globe reported last week that shipments of liquefied natural gas from Yemen are scheduled to arrive for the first time in Boston as early as February. Coast Guard officials are reviewing the plan and said they have not yet decided whether the shipments will be allowed to enter the harbor and dock at the LNG terminal in Everett. "Their paramount concern is the safety and security of the Port of Boston," a Coast Guard spokesman said. Source: <http://homelandsecuritynewswire.com/boston-mayor-wants-block-yemeni-tankers-boston-harbor?page=0,0>

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Japan bans Texas poultry on Avian Influenza concerns. Japan has banned imports of poultry and eggs from Texas after tests showed possible avian influenza in a flock of ducks in the state, U.S. federal and state officials said. Meat from birds slaughtered in Texas as of December 1 is ineligible for export to Japan, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service said today on its Web site. Texas is the sixth-largest U.S. producer of chicken meat. The Texas Animal Health Commission restricted movement of about 1,000 domesticated ducks in the north-central part of the state after routine tests at an associated live bird market found a "weak positive" result for avian flu, the state agency said in an e-mailed statement. The live bird market slaughters and processes animals on site as they are purchased, and the ducks were not part of a commercial flock, the commission said. "No clinical illness at the market or in the flock" has been discovered, the state agency said. Additional samples from the duck flock are being tested, according to state officials. Flocks near the market are also under surveillance, they said.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-01-06/japan-bans-texas-poultry-imports-on-avian-influenza-usda-says.html>

Outbreak of E. coli O157:H7 infections associated with beef from National Steak and Poultry.

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is collaborating with public health officials in several states and the United States Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) to investigate a multistate outbreak of human infections due to Escherichia coli O157:H7 (E. coli O157:H7). As of 5:00 PM EDT, Monday, January 4, 2010, 21 persons infected with the outbreak strain of E. coli O157:H7 had been reported from 16 states. Known illness onset dates range from October 3, 2009 through December 14, 2009. Most patients became ill between mid-October and late November. In early December 2009, CDC's PulseNet staff identified a multistate cluster of 14 E. coli O157:H7 isolates with a particular DNA fingerprint or pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) pattern reported from 13 states. CDC's OutbreakNet team began working with state and local partners to gather epidemiologic information about persons in the cluster to determine if any of the ill individuals had been exposed to the same food source(s). At this time, at least some of the illnesses appear to be associated with products subject to a recent FSIS recall. On December 24, 2009, FSIS issued a notice about a recall of 248,000 pounds of beef products from National Steak and Poultry that may be contaminated with E. coli O157:H7. Source:

<http://www.foodpoisonjournal.com/2010/01/articles/foodborne-illness-outbreaks/outbreak-of-e->

[coli-o157h7-infections-associated-with-beef-from-national-steak-and-poultry-updated-january-6-2010/](#)

FDA finds roaches, listeria at airline caterer. A company that prepares food for major airlines says it has cleaned up its Denver kitchen after federal inspectors found live and dead roaches and listeria bacteria at the facility. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warned the company, LSG Sky Chefs, that it could be barred from selling food to the airlines at the Denver airport if it flunks further inspections. LSG Sky Chefs said Monday it took the FDA's comments seriously, fired the general manager and head chef, and believes it will pass a follow-up review. LSG is owned by Deutsche Lufthansa AG and is a U.S. subsidiary provides food to Delta, American, United and other airlines from 43 kitchens around the country. According to an FDA letter to the company, inspectors who examined the Denver facility found live and dead roaches "too numerous to count" in several areas of the kitchen, including at least 40 live insects in the silverware station. Source:

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/34706032/ns/health-food_safety/

Feds oppose closing locks to stop Asian carp. The Presidential Administration Tuesday opposed Michigan and other states that want to close shipping locks near Chicago to prevent ravenous Asian carp from invading the Great Lakes. The Solicitor General told the U.S. Supreme Court that heeding the states' request would endanger public safety while disrupting cargo and passenger vessel traffic. While acknowledging the carp pose a threat to the lakes and their \$7 billion fishery, she said it was unclear that closing the locks immediately was necessary to keep them out. The Michigan Attorney General filed a lawsuit with the nation's highest court last month. It asked that several locks on waterways south of Chicago be closed immediately as a first step toward eventually severing a century-old artificial link between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River basin. The waterways, including the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, are infested with bighead and silver carp that have been migrating northward in the Mississippi and Illinois rivers for decades. They can grow up to 4 feet long and 100 pounds and are notorious for starving out other fish species. Minnesota, New York, Ohio, and Wisconsin and the Canadian province of Ontario have filed documents supporting Michigan's position. Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9D1U3D02.htm>

State of emergency issued. The Governor of Florida has issued a State of Emergency because of the freezing temperatures. "I am issuing an executive order to declare a state of emergency due to the threat of severe weather and to ensure timely precautions are taken to protect Florida's agricultural crops and the general welfare of this state," he said in the order. State officials say the declaration is designed so precautionary measures are taken to protect Florida's agricultural crops and citrus. Weight limits for trucks hauling crops to processing plants are being relaxed so that the crops can be preserved. Forecasters are predicting lows just below freezing with some cold spots in the mid 20s. The wind chill will make bare skin feel like the temperature is 6 to 8 degrees colder. Source:

http://www.cfnews13.com/Weather/LocalWeatherHeadlines/2010/1/5/prepare_for_more_cold_and_wind_chill1.html

Florida citrus crop so far escapes freeze damage. Florida's citrus crop appears to have escaped damage so far from several nights of freezing weather during its peak harvest period, but growers are bracing for expected lower temperatures overnight Tuesday to Wednesday, the state's main citrus growers group said on Tuesday. For the third consecutive day, Florida Citrus Mutual, which represents around 8,000 growers, said it had received no reports so far of freeze damage to fruit.

Florida's \$9.3 billion citrus industry produces more than three-quarters of the U.S. orange crop, most of which is processed for juice. Source: http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6043CF20100105_22.

Pa. Capitol cafe reopens after rodent troubles. The Pennsylvania Capitol's cafeteria has reopened after being shut down for more than two weeks over mouse droppings and other health hazards. The privately run Statehouse cafeteria in Harrisburg reopened Monday after a thorough cleaning. State officials made an unannounced inspection in mid-December and found evidence of a rodent infestation and dishwashing water that was not hot enough. Officials acknowledged that the cafeteria had not been inspected for four years, even though state law requires annual inspections. They say there will be monthly inspections for the next six months. The ground-floor cafeteria is a popular coffee and lunch spot for visitors and workers. Philadelphia-based Aramark Corp. holds the contract to operate it. Source: http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2010/01/04/us/AP-US-Pa-Capitol-Cafeteria-Rodents.html?_r=1

GOVERNMENT SECTOR (INCLUDING SCHOOLS & UNIVERSITIES)

Budget cuts force tough choices on court security. On many days, the metal detectors sit silent at the busiest courthouse in Maine. People arriving for everything from child custody hearings to murder trials walk through the machines without a beep. The detectors are off because the court can not pay for officers to run them. With the recession prompting steep cuts to state and local budgets, courts around the country are facing the tough decision of whether to reduce court services or cut back on security. For many, it is a disturbing choice in a post-9/11 world. When cuts are made to security staff, it compromises the safety of the courthouse, said a security expert for the National Center for State Courts. "People feel that court security is one area that should receive special consideration for funding since it involves protecting the general public who comes to courthouses for services," he said. But some courts have already reduced security staff, others might have to consider it if budget problems do not get better soon. A few just are not filling long-held vacancies. To help save money, many courthouses have closed one day a month, furloughed employees and temporarily delayed jury trials. The cutbacks in state courts come as threats to federal judges and prosecutors have jumped dramatically. The government report issued last week found such threats more than doubled in the past six years, growing from 592 in 2003 to 1,278 in 2008. Source: http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2010/01/10/us/AP-US-Courthouse-Security-Cuts.html?_r=1

MCSO: 911 caller says bomb will go off at Phoenix courthouse. Hundreds of people have been evacuated and police dogs are searching a Phoenix courthouse after two 911 calls reported a bomb threat Friday morning. A spokesperson for the Phoenix Police Department said the bomb threat was reported at the Superior Court 1st Avenue and Jefferson Street. According to a spokesperson for the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, Maryvale police received a 911 call around 8 a.m. from a person claiming there was a bomb that was going to go off in 3 hours in a building located at 101 W. Jefferson St., in Phoenix. The call came from a Circle K pay phone near 90th Avenue and Camelback Road. The court's public information officer said the East Court Building was evacuated. Around 8:30 a.m., a second 911 call came into police from a pay phone in the area of 19th Avenue, south of Camelback Road. The person claimed, once again, a bomb would go off in 2.5 hours. The MCSO is taking this as a legitimate threat, and approximately 600 to 1000 people were evacuated from the building. MCSO has three canines, Phoenix police has two canines, and the U.S. Marshalls office has one canine searching the building. After the search, individuals will reportedly be allowed back into

the building, but there is no word when this will happen. Although it has been 3 hours since the initial 911 call, there have been no reports of a bomb being found at this time. Source:

<http://www.abc15.com/content/news/phoenixmetro/central/story/MCSO-911-caller-says-bomb-will-go-off-at-Phoenix/KKR08PIsy0iiQ-Oj7cPeUA.csp>

Fake Secret Service agent arrested. Federal authorities have arrested and charged a man for entering U.S. Health and Human Services headquarters by posing as a U.S. Secret Service agent — with false credentials and a badge — who needed to meet with the Health Secretary. The U.S. Attorney's Office says the 46-year-old suspect was arrested Tuesday, January 5. Documents filed in U.S. District Court say somebody recognized him from photos circulated at HHS as a warning that he was barred from the building. It was unclear why the individual was not allowed at the HHS offices. Source:

http://www.denverpost.com/headlines/ci_14145707

Group: Internet posts indicate threat to Navy in Persian Gulf. Messages posted recently by prominent contributors to jihadist Web sites are seeking specific information on U.S. military targets in hopes of carrying out an attack on Navy ships in the Persian Gulf, according to the Washington, D.C.-based Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI). One post on the jihadi forum Al-Falluja calls for information such as the “name of the particular naval unit to be targeted, its exact location, the number of troops on board the warship and their ranks, familial status, where their families live, the type of weapons the warship carries...and the number of nuclear bombs onboard,” reads a report compiled by MEMRI. “The postings that have come out recently are from al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula...from some of their leaders and some of the main people and...head moderators,” MEMRI's executive director said. The Naval Criminal Investigative Service warned U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/5th Fleet of the threats on December 31, said a Navy spokesman. Citing security reasons, he declined to say whether the Navy changed any force-protection measures or policies or tactics as a result of the threats. It was the specificity and the call for personal familial information that led NCIS to caution 5th Fleet, a Navy official said. A December 30 Al-Falluja post called for a gathering of intelligence on U.S. Navy targets. Included on the post were diagrams and a dated picture of the USS Enterprise aircraft carrier. The photos, however, are from open-source Web sites, said MEMRI's executive director, and easily attainable. “Anyone who thinks our enemies don't monitor what our sailors, families and commands are doing via the Internet and social media had better open their eyes,” wrote a master chief petty officer in a message posted Wednesday on the Navy's Web site. “These sites are great for networking, getting the word out and talking about some of our most important family readiness issues, but our sailors and their loved ones have to be careful with what they say and what they reveal about themselves, their families or their commands.”

Source: <http://www.stripes.com/article.asp?section=104&article=67112>

Swiss police give all clear after package causes embassy alert. Swiss police gave the all clear after closing off a street and evacuating a school when a suspicious package was found near the U.S. embassy in the capital Bern. “The public wasn't endangered at any time,” a cantonal police spokesman said. Security staff guarding the mission in the capital Bern noticed an “unattended package” and alerted the authorities, the spokesman said. The item turned out to be harmless, he said. Source:

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-01-06/swiss-police-give-all-clear-after-package-causes-embassy-alert.html>

Test results show signs of arsenic on school property. Tests were done on the soil and groundwater near Castle Hayne Elementary and Holly Shelter Middle schools, which were both built near an EPA superfund site. A company called ECS Carolinas did the testing for the school system, after many parents expressed concerns about the schools being located close to an EPA superfund site. They took water and soil samples from multiple places on the school property. Officials had reportedly cleaned up the area, but test results show concentrations of arsenic that exceed the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources Standards. Two of the samples that tested for high arsenic levels are just outside the building for Castle Hayne Elementary. Some parents say they have been worried about the school's location since it opened. Source:

<http://www.wect.com/Global/story.asp?S=11774877>

New Orleans man charged with threatening to kill President Barack Obama during 911 call. A New Orleans man has been arrested and charged with threatening to kill the President. In a court filing Monday, a Secret Service agent said the 47-year-old suspect dialed 911 early last Friday and told a police dispatcher that he planned to kill the President and the First Lady. The agent said he used telephone records to trace the call to the suspect's cell phone. Police arrested him Saturday and he was booked into jail on state charges that included illegal possession of a firearm and drug possession. The suspect remained in custody Monday. He is scheduled to make his initial appearance in federal court Friday. Source: <http://www.startribune.com/nation/80665002.html>

Threats against U.S. judges, prosecutors jump. Threats against U.S. judges and federal prosecutors jumped 11.6 percent in fiscal 2008 and the U.S. Marshals Service assigned to protect them did not respond consistently to the threats, according to a government report released on Monday. Judges, court officials and prosecutors reported 1,278 threats in the year ended September 30, 2008, up from 1,145 in fiscal 2007 and more than double the 592 reported in 2003, said the report by the Justice Department's inspector general. "While threats against federal court officials have continued to increase in the past several years, we found critical deficiencies in the department's threat response program," the Inspector General said in a statement. The report found the Marshals Service did not consistently record the potential risk associated with the threat against the judicial officials, which made it difficult to determine whether the response to a threat was appropriate. In a handful of cases reviewed, four judges and an assistant U.S. attorney did not recall being given any of the protective measures they should have received even though the risk level was determined to be low. The Marshals Service also did not fully coordinate its responses to threats with the FBI and local law enforcement authorities, the report found. And judges and prosecutors did not always report threats, it said. Source: http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2010/01/04/world/international-uk-usa-courts-security.html?_r=2

Las Vegas gunman upset over social security benefits. A gunman upset over losing his Social Security benefits case, opened fire in the lobby of a federal building in downtown Las Vegas on Monday, killing a court officer and wounding a deputy U.S. marshal before he was shot to death. Two officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, because they were not authorized to discuss the case, identified the shooter to the Associated Press. While an investigation is under way, the officials say the early evidence points to the man's anger over his benefits as motive for the shooting. Court records show that the suspect sued the Social Security Administration in 2008, but the case was thrown out and formally closed in September 2009. Source:

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,581912,00.html?test=latestnews>

Secret Service says a third gate-crasher entered State dinner. The Secret Service revealed Monday that a third individual who was not on the guest list made it into the November 24 White House state dinner, though the agency says the individual went through security screening and did not appear to have any interaction with the President. The Secret Service, which did not name the individual, said the information about the third party-crasher came out in the course of the investigation into the security breach. The Secret Service said in a written statement that the individual traveled from a “local hotel” where the Indian delegation was staying and arrived with the group at the dinner. “This individual went through all required security measures along with the rest of the official delegation at the hotel, and boarded a bus/van with the delegation guests en route to the White House,” the Secret Service said. In the latest statement, the Secret Service said the Indian delegation with whom the third party-crasher was traveling was “under the responsibility” of the State Department. But it said new changes would be implemented to prevent a repeat. “Procedural changes have already been implemented to address foreign delegations under the responsibility of Department of State who are entering facilities secured by the Secret Service,” the statement said. Source:

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2010/01/04/secret-service-says-gate-crasher-entered-state-dinner/?test=latestnews>

Former Army Ranger faces another 20 years in prison for attack, plot to kill prosecutor. A former Army Ranger who is already serving 24 years in federal prison center for masterminding a bank robbery in Tacoma four years ago pled guilty today to attacking a co-defendant in prison and trying to hire a hitman to kill an assistant US attorney. The 22 year-old suspect pleaded guilty in U. S. District Court to one count of assault with a deadly weapon and one count of solicitation of a crime of violence. He faces an additional twenty years in prison at his sentencing scheduled for March 29. In his plea agreement, the suspect admitted that he had, on two occasions last March, offered as much as \$20,000 for the assault and murder of an assistant U.S. attorney. The name of the attorney targeted by the suspect was not released by the U.S. Attorney’s Office. An Assistant U.S. Attorney said on Monday that the suspect told an undercover FBI agent that he did not care how his intended target was killed, just that the death be reported as a murder and not an accident. The U.S. Attorney said, “We take all threats and violence against law enforcement and court staff very seriously, and will fully prosecute those responsible. As we have in this case, we will seek significant punishment.” Source:

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2010697642_websommer05m.html?syndication=rss

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Hacker pilfers browser GPS location via router attack. If anyone is surfing the web from a wireless router supplied by some of the biggest device makers, there is a chance the author of Samy Worm can identify your geographic location. That is because WiFi access points made by Westell and others are vulnerable to XSS, or cross-site scripting, attacks that can siphon a device’s media access control address with one wayward click of the mouse. Once in possession of the unique identifier, the author can plug it in to Google’s Google Location Services and determine where you are. “It’s actually scary how accurate it is,” said the author of the worm, a self-replicating XSS exploit that in 2005 added more than 1 million friends to his MySpace account and in the process knocked the site out of commission. “I’ve found that with a single MAC address, I’ve always been spot on with the tests I’ve

done.” The author, who tweeted about the vulnerability on January 5, has posted a proof-of-concept attack. For now, it works only on FiOS routers supplied by Verizon, and then only when users are logged in to the device’s administrative panel. With a little more work, he said he can make it exploit similar XSS holes in routers made by other manufacturers. With one very important difference, the author’s proof-of-concept is similar to a Firefox feature that allows users to get customized content by automatically sharing their location with websites they are visiting. Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/01/05/geo_location_stealing_hack/

New PDF exploit may be first of many in the New Year, experts say. A sophisticated, two-phase attack that hides in PDF documents could be the first in a long line of exploits that target vulnerabilities in Adobe applications, researchers said recently. In a blog an Internet Storm Center researcher describes a new JavaScript exploit that hides in PDF files and exploits a known vulnerability. The shellcode used for the exploit is remarkable in its small footprint and sophistication, the researcher reports. Just 38 bytes long, it works in two stages: The first stage seeks out targets and obfuscates the attack, then passes the baton to a second-stage shellcode that is capable of executing code on a victim’s machine. The exploit’s construction makes it not only difficult for traditional antivirus tools to detect, but also masks the execution of the code so that the end user might not even know anything has happened, he says. The new exploit feeds the fire of predictions that Adobe, not Microsoft, will be attackers’ chief target in the New Year. In its new threat predictions report, security firm McAfee projects there will be more attacks on Adobe in 2010 than on Windows. Source: <http://www.darkreading.com/security/attacks/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=222200373>

Kingston coughs to security flaw in ‘Secure’ flash drive. Kingston Technology is instructing customers to return certain models of its memory sticks, after the firm discovered a glitch in its DataTraveler Secure flash drives. The company said in a security notice that the models affected were “privacy” editions of the DataTraveler Secure, DataTraveler Elite and DataTraveler Blackbox. Kingston said the security flaw could allow a wrongdoer to hack into the memory sticks. “A skilled person with the proper tools and physical access to the drives may be able to gain unauthorized access to data,” warned the vendor. Kingston added that a number of its USB drives were not affected by the security flaw. Customers whose drives could be exploited by the security loophole should return the product, where Kingston said it would apply a factory update. Kingston had claimed that its Data Traveler Secure drive was the first of its kind to protect “100 percent of data on-the-fly via 256-bit hardware-based AES encryption.” Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/01/04/kingston_technology_flash_drive_flaw/

Cross-site scripting vulnerabilities see two political websites hacked. Political websites were hacked January 5, leaving leaders embarrassed. A report on BBC News said that visitors to Spain’s EU presidency website were greeted by an image of comedy character instead of the Spanish Prime Minister. The government said that the site - www.eu2010.es - had not been attacked and that a hacker had taken a screenshot of the homepage to make a photo montage using a cross-site scripting (XSS) vulnerability. A senior security advisor at Trend Micro, said that the compromise only lasted a few hours until the original content was restored and site administrators were reportedly working on a fix. He said: “In this instance there does not appear to have been any malicious intent, but the dangers of XSS vulnerabilities should not be underestimated. Cross-site scripting vulnerabilities allow attackers to inject code into innocent web pages in which it would not otherwise appear. The security expert also flagged a compromise on the official website of the president of Iran. Source:

<http://www.scmagazineuk.com/cross-site-scripting-vulnerabilities-see-two-political-websites-hacked/article/160597/>

25 million new malware strains in one year: The outstanding trend of the last 12 months has been the prolific production of new malware: 25 million new strains were created in just one year, compared to a combined total of 15 million throughout the last 20 years. This is one of the findings of the latest malware report by PandaLabs which reviews the major incidents and events concerning IT security in 2009. This latest surge of activity included countless new examples of banker Trojans (some 66%) as well as a host of fake anti-virus programs (rogueware). The report also draws attention to the resurgence of traditional viruses, previously on the verge of extinction, such as Conficker, Salty or the veteran Virutas. [Date: 4 January 2010; Source: http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=1185]

EWU exposes 130,000 student records: Eastern Washington University has notified present and former students of a massive data breach of its systems that could affect up to 130,000 people. The breach occurred after administrators audited the University's network, according to a breach notification sent out to students. The intruder installed file sharing software on network machines that could have enabled the sensitive information to be filched from the network. Data involved in the breach, which dates back to 1987, includes names, social security numbers and dates of birth. ... This is EWU's first reported data breach, but other Universities have suffered their own losses. [Date: 4 January 2010; Source: <http://www.infosecurity-us.com/view/6183/ewu-exposes-130-000-student-records/>]

NATIONAL MONUMENTS AND ICONS

A controlled burn has been scheduled to clear a large swath of the forest in Columbia and Baker counties. Large plumes of smoke should be expected around the Osceola National Forest throughout the day Thursday. A controlled burn has been scheduled to clear a large swath of the forest in Columbia and Baker counties. The U.S. Forest Service, with assistance from the Florida Division of Forestry, plans to burn 3,400 acres to clear underbrush that could serve as fuel during a forest or wildfire. Federal and state officials said the burn will be ignited by small capsules dropped from aircraft. Aerial ignition is being used because much of the area being burned is inaccessible to ground equipment. Source: <http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100107/ARTICLES/100109698/1002>

Rushmore plans spraying, thinning to slow beetle advance. Thinning out smaller trees and spraying with chemicals could help protect the majestic old-growth ponderosa pines in and around Mount Rushmore National Memorial from beetles and fire. Rushmore officials will ask the National Park Service for additional money to combat an expected invasion by mountain pine beetles in the 1,200 acres of forest, including old-growth pines, within the memorial's boundaries. "We have a short-term strategy and a long-term strategy, because this landscape change is going to happen," Rushmore's curator said. Short-term efforts will include spraying some trees with Sevin, particularly around visitor-use areas, to repel the beetles, he said. Spot infestations have already hit trees at the memorial. Infested trees near the residence area and the water treatment plant have been cut down, he added. Thinning will occur both in the short term and over the long haul. Some thinning is already going on at the memorial, including efforts by fire management personnel. Source: http://www.rapidcityjournal.com/article_3cbe37ec-f8da-11de-a008-001cc4c002e0.html

National Park Service says Nantucket Sound eligible for special protections. Federal officials on Monday agreed to a request by two Indian tribes for special protections for Nantucket Sound, a move that could delay construction of a proposed wind farm off Cape Cod. The National Park Service said the sound is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a significant traditional cultural, historic and archaeological property. The Mashpee and Aquinnah Wampanoag tribes say the designation, which would come with new regulations for activity on the sound, is needed to preserve the tribe's sacred rituals. The Wampanoag practice sacred rituals requiring an unblocked view of the sunrise. That view will not exist if the Cape Wind project's 130 turbines, each over 400 feet tall, are built several miles from the Cape Cod shore across a 25-square-mile swath of federal waters. The turbines would be visible to Wampanoag in Mashpee and on Martha's Vineyard. The designation could add months to the approval process by forcing developers to comply with the designation's standards. Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/politics/wire/sns-ap-us-wind-farm-ruling,0,7653200.story>

POSTAL AND SHIPPING

White powder at Hawthorne military base not harmful. Everything is back to normal at the Hawthorne Army Depot. For much of Wednesday, January 6, security was tightened at the depot because of a package that contained a suspicious white substance. An explosives team from Fallon Naval Air Station examined the substance and decided it is not harmful. However, they were unable to identify it. The package was sent via the mail. Investigators say they do not know who sent it. Source: <http://www.kolotv.com/home/headlines/80829057.html>

Fifth letter containing suspicious substance found at UC Irvine. Another envelope containing a suspicious substance was discovered at UC Irvine on January 6, the fifth such letter found on campus this week. In the latest case, an assistant to an associate professor of arts felt something granular in an envelope she was about to open and notified authorities. Like all the suspicious envelopes discovered since Monday at UC Irvine, it had an Idaho postmark. Campus officials said they have taken steps to scrutinize incoming mail and sent out warnings to not open unexpected letters from Idaho. Tests on the substances in the previous letters, which included the message "black death," found them to be harmless. Nevertheless, today's incident was handled like the others — by an Orange County Fire Authority hazardous materials team. All five letters were sent to faculty members in a variety of departments. Aside from that, a pattern as to who is being targeted has yet to emerge, said a university spokeswoman. "At first the only pattern was that they were all women," she said. "This latest one" — sent to a male associate professor of arts — "breaks that pattern." Source: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2010/01/5th-letter-containing-suspicious-powder-found-at-uci.html>

Second suspicious letter received at federal courthouse. Hazmat crews responded to the federal courthouse in downtown Mobile for a second straight day. Another suspicious letter with white powder was mailed there. Like the one on Monday, the letter was addressed to a Republican Senator. The FBI says the white powder is not anything dangerous. A letter with white powder was also opened Tuesday at Montgomery's municipal court. The FBI says it is not connected to similar letters found across the state the past two days. Source:

http://www.wkrg.com/alabama/article/second_susicious_letter_received_at_federal_courthouse/620655/Jan-05-2010_6-25-pm/

Offices in 5 Alabama cities evacuated after receiving envelopes with white powder. Political offices throughout Alabama — including Foley and Mobile — shut down Monday morning after receiving nine envelopes containing white powder and threatening letters. The letters claimed the powder was anthrax, but tests revealed the substance was not harmful, said the special agent in charge of the Mobile office of the FBI. An FBI agent in Birmingham said it was, in fact, an artificial sweetener. The envelopes were found in five cities: All four targeted politicians are Republicans. The FBI Agent said he did not want to speculate about a possible motive. The FBI Agent said more letters may be coming. An FBI spokeswoman said investigators believe all the handwritten letters came from the same source. The US Postal Inspection Service is offering a \$100,000 reward for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for sending the letters.

Source: http://blog.al.com/live/2010/01/offices_in_5_alabama_cities_ev.html

Suspicious powder sent to 2 UC Irvine professors. More tests were expected to be carried out Tuesday on white powder sent to two UC Irvine professors in envelopes that contained messages bearing the words “black death.” Neither one of the targets appeared to have been harmed by the substance, whose discovery prompted the evacuation of parts of two buildings on campus. One letter was opened by a faculty member in the Social Science Plaza about 11:30 a.m. Monday, and the other was opened by a faculty member in the Engineering Tower about 2 p.m., according to a UCI campus spokesman. The FBI has launched an investigation of the incident, the Orange County Register reported. The powder contained in one of the envelopes was tested by the Orange County Health Care Agency, which determined that it was not hazardous, school officials told the Daily Pilot. Other faculty members were urged Monday to be cautious when examining incoming mail and to contact UC Irvine police if they received anything suspicious. Source:

http://www.dailybreeze.com/latestnews/ci_14125168

Dry ice bombs discovered in Evergreen mailboxes. Dry ice bombs were found in two Jefferson County mailboxes, closing down a road in an Evergreen neighborhood. A bomb squad is on the scene in the Clove Lane neighborhood after the bombs were found Monday. No one was hurt. Jefferson County Sheriff’s Department is investigating. Deputies say dry ice bombs are found six to eight times a year. Source: <http://www.kdvr.com/news/sns-ap-co--dryicebombs,0,3607901.story>

PUBLIC HEALTH/SAFETY/INFORMATION

Health security strategy released. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released a strategy for protecting people’s health during a huge emergency. The nation’s first such comprehensive strategy enumerates priority for government and non-government activities in a large-scale emergency during the next four years, the department’s secretary said Thursday in a release. “As we’ve learned in the response to the 2009 H1N1 pandemic, responsibility for improving our nation’s ability to address existing and emerging health threats must be broadly shared by everyone — governments, communities, families, and individuals,” she said. “The National Health Security Strategy is a call to action for each of us so that every community becomes fully prepared and ready to recover quickly after an emergency.” Source:

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2010/01/07/Health-security-strategy-released/UPI-18711262914028/

January is National Radon Action Month (NRAM)

Radon: The Health Hazard with a Simple Solution

Radon is a cancer-causing natural radioactive gas that you can't see, smell or taste. Its presence in your home can pose a danger to your family's health. Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in America and claims about 20,000 lives annually. Learn how you can protect your family. Test Your Home for Radon — it's easy and inexpensive. Fix your home if you have a radon level of 4 pCi/L or more.

Learn more at; <http://www.epa.gov/radon/index.html>

Man charged with felony after throwing homemade bombs at police station. A man has pleaded guilty to throwing Molotov cocktails at the police station in New Buffalo, Michigan, according to reporting from the Herald Palladium. The 20-year-old says he threw the homemade bombs because he was mad about his friends' arrests. None of the bombs caused any injuries or damage. The man is charged with a felony for making an explosive device and faces up to 15 years in prison. Source:

<http://www.wndu.com/localnews/headlines/80852347.html>

Feds: Revenge drove attack on Ark. med board chair. A doctor who was punished after 10 of his patients fatally overdosed on drugs he prescribed sought revenge by bombing the chairman of the state medical board, leaving him severely burned and without an eye, a federal prosecutor said Wednesday in announcing new charges in the case. A grand jury indicted the man on three charges in connection with the February 2009 attack on the chairman outside of his home in West Memphis. The most serious charge — using a weapon of mass destruction against a person or property — could land the man in prison for life if he is convicted. Source:

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory?id=9494380>

Faulty sprinkler prompts evacuation at RI Hospital. Early Wednesday morning, a malfunctioning sprinkler head on the eighth floor of Rhode Island Hospital in Providence caused fire crews to evacuate a dozen patients there and a few in the intensive care unit on the floor below. Crews were called to the main hospital building at 2:10 a.m. when the hospital's fire alarm went off. They discovered a sprinkler head spraying water into an occupied patient room and substantial damage already in that room and on the entire wing. The health conditions of the patients who had to be moved were not in jeopardy. On the eighth floor, some of the patients appeared to be bedridden, and fire crews had to move them from their beds onto stretchers to get them into an elevator and onto another wing of the hospital and another building. Source: <http://newsblog.projo.com/2010/01/faulty-sprinkler-requires-mino.html>

FDA recalls cracked catheter. The FDA has announced a class 1 a recall — the most serious type — of a vein and artery catheter because the device may crack near its radiopaque marker band and cause fatal injury. Device manufacturer ev3 Endovascular, Inc. recalled all Trailblazer Support Catheters in certain lots manufactured between September 10 and September 30, 2009, and distributed from September 21 to October 27. The cracked device may prevent sufficient oxygen from flowing to tissues, damage tissues and blood vessels, cause myocardial infarction, or result in limb amputation, unplanned surgery, and death, the FDA said. Source:

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/ProductAlert/DevicesandVaccines/17811>

Vaccine refusal raises chickenpox risk. Chickenpox cases have dropped by about 80 percent in the U.S. since a vaccine to prevent the disease became available almost 15 years ago, but many parents still reject immunization because of concerns about vaccine safety. Now new research confirms what public health officials have long known: Children whose parents refuse to allow chickenpox vaccination are at increased risk for getting the disease. From a group of close to 90,000 children enrolled in a Colorado health plan, researchers from the Kaiser Permanente Institute for Health Research in Denver identified 133 children who got chickenpox and compared them to 493 children matched for sex, age, and length of enrollment in the health plan who did not get the disease. They found that children were nine times as likely to get chickenpox, also known as varicella, when their parents refused to have them vaccinated. Overall, about 5 percent of chickenpox cases were attributable to vaccine refusal. Source:

<http://children.webmd.com/vaccines/news/20100104/vaccine-refusal-raises-chickenpox-risk>

TRANSPORTATION

Duluth airport evacuated after unattended bag found. An unattended bag at the Duluth International Airport on Friday caused an evacuation. Officials say around 11:30 A.M., airport security found an unattended bag outside a screening area. “A group of people together, stopped in to use the restroom—had a bunch of bags—grabbed most of them, unfortunately not all of them,” said a security officer with the Duluth Airport Authority. After no one claimed the bags, officials made the determination to evacuate the terminal as a precaution. After no harmful content was found in the bag, the airport reopened and the bag the owner of the luggage was located, but not before planes were affected. “There was one arriving flight delayed, two departing flights delayed—none canceled,” said the spokesman. Airport officials would not comment when asked whether the bag’s owner will face charges. Source: <http://www.northlandsnewscenter.com/news/local/81051907.html>

Goodbye kiss provoked Newark airport scare: report. The security scare that shut Newark Liberty International Airport for hours and delayed thousands of passengers was caused by a man who slipped into a secure area to give a woman one last goodbye kiss, a newspaper reported on Thursday. A videotape of the Newark incident shows the man embracing a woman at the C-1 security checkpoint before she passes through passenger screening, the Star-Ledger newspaper of New Jersey said, citing unnamed security officials who have viewed the tape. The man, who was not a passenger, walks past a spot where a Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officer should have been stationed to move closer to the woman, the paper said. The woman holds up a rope meant to keep unscreened people out of the secure area so that the man can pass underneath, and they walk hand-in-hand toward the boarding area before disappearing from view, the paper reported. The man left the airport and has not been identified. The TSA officer who was working that area has been placed on administrative leave. A U.S. Senator from New Jersey is attempting to make the video public, a spokesman for the Senator said. “After viewing video of the security breach, I am even more outraged by the lapse that occurred,” the Senator told the Star-Ledger. Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6063J820100107>

Toledoan taken off Miami plane, detained over disruption, threats. A Toledo man remained in jail in Florida Thursday night after being taken off a Detroit-bound jet and arrested for making racially threatening comments and taking a “combative posture” toward city police who responded at Miami International Airport, authorities said. He was charged with disorderly conduct, threats against a

public servant, and resisting arrest without violence after his Wednesday night arrest at a gate to which Northwest Airlines Flight 2485 had returned after taxiing onto a runway. No terrorist activity was alleged in the case, and a Miami FBI spokesman said the federal agency, after participating in the initial investigation, said the incident “was a local matter.” The flight was allowed to resume its trip to Detroit after a security sweep was conducted after the man’s removal from the aircraft. A spokesperson for the FBI’s Miami office said that while disrupting an airliner is a federal offense, the man caused no physical disturbance until after police took him into custody, and his comments were not considered sufficient to warrant federal charges or further FBI involvement in the case. Source: <http://toledoblade.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100108/NEWS02/1080347/0/COLUMNIST33>

3 Transportation Security Administration bomb sniffing dogs at PHL fail exam. Three bomb-sniffing dogs assigned to inspect cargo at Philadelphia International Airport failed recent recertification tests and federal officials should immediately replace them, a Pennsylvania congressman said. He sent a letter Tuesday to the acting TSA administrator, urging her “to immediately replace the three dogs on duty at PHL with certified animals so that passengers and cargo flying out of our airport can do so safely.” There also are 10 TSA-certified Philadelphia police dogs assigned to the airport. A TSA spokesman said the agency could not comment on the status of its dogs. He said, however, that the rigorous nature of yearly certification tests means that some of the nation’s 700 TSA-led dog teams deployed in air, marine and mass transportation systems may not pass and must go through a remedial program. In the meantime, other layers of security are employed, the spokesman said. TSA-led teams concentrate on cargo screening while law enforcement-led teams handle all areas of the airport and spend part of their time supporting cargo inspection. Source: <http://cbs3.com/local/Philadelphia.Airport.TSA.2.1409644.html>

Fighter jets escort plane after passenger becomes unruly. Two F-15 fighter jets escorted a passenger jet that had been headed for Hawaii back to Portland International Airport in Oregon after a passenger in coach became “uncooperative,” an airline official said Wednesday. Hawaiian Airlines Flight 39 took off from Portland at 10:10 a.m. with 231 passengers and a crew of 10 when — 90 minutes into the flight — its captain decided to turn around the Boeing 767, said the airline’s vice president of public affairs. The fighter jets intercepted the plane at 1 p.m., North American Aerospace Defense Command said in a written statement. It landed at 1:16 p.m. without further incident, the TSA said. Upon the plane’s return, the passenger — a 56-year-old Salem, Oregon, man — was escorted from the plane with his female companion without incident, the FBI and the Port of Portland said in a joint statement. The FBI said it was not releasing his name because he had not been charged. Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2010/TRAVEL/01/06/oregon.unruly.passenger/>

FAA: Wind farm may pose aviation hazard. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has concerns that half of the turbines proposed for the Shaffer Mountain wind farm overlooking Bedford County could impact operations at the Bedford County Airport. The FAA in a recent finding said that 15 of the farm’s proposed 30 400-foot-tall windmills have the potential to create problems for aviation. “Those 15 are in a location where they could present a hazard to departures from this airport,” an FAA spokeswoman said Wednesday. The FAA findings say that 15 of the turbines “exceed obstruction standards and/or would have an adverse physical or electromagnetic interference effect.” Opponents to the Shaffer Mountain project view the FAA’s initial finding as a glimmer of hope that Gamesa will give up on the project. They say it threatens an ecologically sensitive area in Somerset and Bedford counties. A Gamesa spokeswoman said the Spain-based wind energy company is not quitting Shaffer

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Mountain. It simply may be a matter of providing the FAA with additional information. The spokeswoman said an FAA review two years ago of the same turbine locations resulted in approval for Shaffer Mountain. Gamesa had to go back to the FAA because the initial ruling expired after 18 months – before construction could begin. The Bedford County Airport is situated on 168 acres of land four miles north of Bedford at Cessna. Designated a business airport, it has no commercial flights, but on average, 40 planes use the facility daily. Source: http://www.tribune-democrat.com/local/local_story_006230820.html?keyword=topstory

MSP's Lindbergh terminal reopens after 'false alarm' bomb scare. A battered pink bag used by workers in baggage claim sparked a security scare at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport on Tuesday. There was a 90-minute evacuation of parts of the Lindbergh Terminal. A bomb-sniffing dog reacted as though something suspicious was on the bag, which is used to mark the end of a line of luggage from a flight, at carousel No. 12, which is used by Continental and Frontier airlines. About half of the airport's baggage-claim area was closed off, as were ticketing areas above, starting at about 2 p.m. A portion of the roadway closest to those areas was also shut down, creating a traffic back-up into the airport. The areas were re-opened at around 3:30 p.m. after members of the Bloomington Police Department's bomb squad determined it was a false alarm. Source: <http://www.startribune.com/lifestyle/travel/80731457.html?elr=KArks:DCiUBcy7hUiD3aPc: Yyc:aUH DYaGEP7eyckcUX>

Bakersfield Airport Closed by Suspicious Bag; Honey Found Inside

The Meadows Field airport in Bakersfield, Calif., was shut down for several hours Tuesday after a checked bag set off security alarms. Five soft-drink bottles filled with honey were found in the bag. Kern County Sheriff Donny Youngblood said the bottles tested positive for traces of the explosive TNT. Two Transportation Security Administration employees who were working near the bag were taken to a nearby hospital, where they were treated and released.

Investigators are trying to determine whether something in the honey or on the bag prompted the alarm, Youngblood said.

FULL ARTICLE: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/05/AR2010010503979.html>

U.S. steps up flight security lists. The U.S. has moved dozens of names on to "watch" and "no-fly" lists as it seeks to overhaul security in the wake of an alleged jet bomb plot, officials say. The U.S. government has also introduced new security measures for all travelers flying to America. There will be extra screening for people traveling from 14 countries. Meanwhile, the President is to meet officials assigned to review security after the suspected plot and is expected to announce reforms. These will aim to "improve our watch-listing system as well as our ability to thwart future attempts to carry out terrorist attacks", an administration official said. A White House spokesman said that lists had been checked and updated, with names moved from the Terrorist Identities Datamart Environment (Tide), to a watch list or no-fly list. "Probably dozens were moved to different lists," he said. Those on the watch list are subject to extra security checks, while those on the no-fly list are not allowed to board flights to the United States. Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/8440591.stm>

Amtrak reviews air scare intel urges vigilance. U.S. passenger rail operator Amtrak is reviewing intelligence related to the December 25 bombing attempt aboard a U.S.-bound jetliner and will

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increase security as necessary, the railroad said on Monday. An internal advisory reminded Amtrak employees to be alert. “Although there is no specific threat to Amtrak identified at this time, we will be reviewing all intelligence gathered about the present situation to heighten awareness and to augment our security presence as required,” the advisory said. Unlike air travelers, Amtrak passengers do not undergo mandatory security screening before boarding trains. However, the government-run corporation that carries more than 27 million people annually on more than 300 trains per day conducts random passenger and bag checks. It has also beefed up other security measures in recent years and uses bomb-sniffing dogs randomly in stations and on trains. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6034DR20100104>

17-year-old locked in Fla. airport terminal. The Pensacola Gulf Coast Regional Airport says it will be examining the facility’s security operations after a 17-year-old was locked in a terminal alone overnight. The airport director says the facility will be “taking a good look” at screening procedures because of the weekend incident. The 17-year-old missed his Delta flight Saturday night and decided to sleep in the airport terminal. The airport concourse closed, leaving him locked inside alone. A Delta agent discovered him asleep early Sunday morning and called airport security guards. The teenager was allowed to fly out Sunday after he was questioned by security officials. Source: <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/florida/AP/story/1409746.html>

TSA allegedly waited 80 minutes before reporting breach at N.J. airport. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) waited more than an hour to alert law enforcement about a security breach at New Jersey’s Newark Liberty International Airport on Sunday, MyFoxNY.com reported. An unidentified man, who may have just been lost, confused or simply mistaken about which way to go, was able to bypass security and enter the airport through an exit door. MyFoxNY.com was reportedly able to see a computer dispatch log that indicated the breach had occurred at 5:20 p.m. Sunday. But it was not until 80 minutes later, at 6:40 p.m. that the Port Authority Police Department was notified about the incident, MyFoxNY.com reported. The TSA said they needed time to investigate the traveler’s claims before they could request a shutdown of the terminal, which required several calls up the chain of command and viewing surveillance tape, according to the station. Whatever the explanation, the traveler’s seemingly innocuous actions Sunday evening wreaked havoc on airline schedules and delayed passengers around the globe for 24 hours — and again demonstrated that for all the new high-tech passenger and baggage screenings that have made air travel safer, human error can quickly send the entire system into a tailspin. An unidentified security officer assigned to the area of the exit door apparently did not see the man enter but was notified by a bystander waiting for relatives to arrive. The security officer was reassigned to non-screening duties pending the completion of the investigation. Flights were grounded for about six hours while authorities looked at surveillance tapes to try to identify the man. He was later seen on tape leaving the terminal about 20 minutes after he entered it. Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,581990,00.html?test=latestnews>

WATER AND DAMS

Groundwater issue haunts 3M plan for Cottage Grove incinerator. 3M Co. is now facing an unexpected backlash based on the PFCs — perfluorochemicals — in drinking water. It has erupted in a dispute that has nothing to do with water quality — a routine permit change for an incinerator. “This isn’t about the incinerator at all, as much as the water pollution,” said the mayor of Cottage

Grove, Minnesota, the home of the incinerator. The company announced in May that it wanted to burn material from non-3M sources in its 38-year-old incinerator. The incinerator had been operating quietly for decades, with hardly a peep from the public. But the company backlash is now so strong that the incinerator has suddenly warranted its own city commission — the Cottage Grove Environmental Task Force. The State Pollution Control Agency (PCA) has joined in as well, with its own public meetings. In 2004, traces of PFCs made by 3M were found in drinking water in Oakdale and Lake Elmo. Later, they were found in drinking water of about 67,000 people. They had leached from various dumpsites. The news was alarming, because megadoses of the chemicals cause cancer and birth defects in mice. More than 1,000 residents sued 3M, claiming PFCs injured them. But after a four-year, multimillion-dollar court battle, a judge ruled that the traces in water were too small to hurt anyone's health or property values. At the same time, a state study showed there were no increases in any ailment in the area — despite decades of exposure. Source:

http://www.twincities.com/ci_14117154?nclink_check=1

NORTH DAKOTA HOMELAND SECURITY CONTACTS

To report a homeland security incident, please contact your local law enforcement agency or one of these agencies: **Fusion Center (24/7):** 866-885-8295; email: ndfusion@nd.gov ; FAX: 701-328-8175

State Radio: 800-472-2121 **Bureau of Criminal Investigation:** 701-328-5500 **Highway Patrol:** 701-328-2455

US Attorney's Office Intel Analyst: 701-297-7400 **Bismarck FBI:** 701-223-4875 **Fargo FBI:** 701-232-7241

ATF(Fargo): 701-293-2860

To contribute to this summary or if you have questions or comments, please contact the Fusion Center:

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