

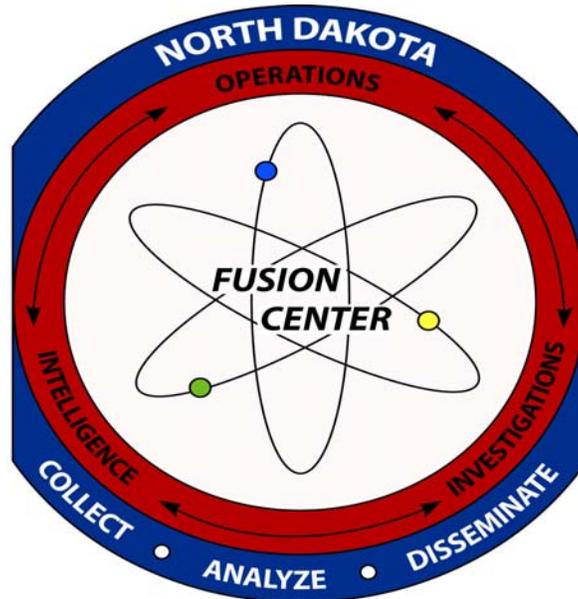


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# North Dakota Homeland Security “Open Source” Anti-Terrorism Summary

December 29, 2009



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](mailto:ndfusion@nd.gov)

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## NORTH DAKOTA

Nothing Significant to Report

## REGIONAL

Nothing Significant to Report

## NATIONAL

Nothing Significant to Report

## INTERNATIONAL

*December 27, Reuters* – (International) **Makeshift bomb damages insurance building in Athens.** A makeshift bomb went off late on December 27 outside the offices of National Insurance Company in central Athens, Greece causing damage to the building and nearby cars but no injuries, police said. “There was a warning phone call to a newspaper about 15 minutes before the explosion but no claim of responsibility,” a police official said. Police said the explosive device was placed near the entrance of the insurance company’s building, located near the Ledra Marriott hotel. The company is a subsidiary of National Bank, the country’s biggest lender. The incident is the latest in a series of gas canister and bomb attacks by leftist and anarchist groups that have rocked Greece since the police shooting of a teenager sparked the country’s worst riots in decades in December 2008. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLDE5BQ0DC20091227>

*December 23, Associated Press* – (International) **Gunmen fire at Mexican eatery with U.S. mayor inside.** On December 22, gunmen sprayed bullets at a restaurant in Piedras Negras, Mexico, where the mayor of the Texas border town of Eagle Pass was eating with a Mexican state attorney general and other officials, police said. A woman leaving the building was killed. The two officials were unharmed, according to police officers at the scene. Mexico’s drug cartels have staged increasingly bold attacks on Mexican officials and security forces since the Mexican president deployed soldiers across the country to step up the fight against drug trafficking. Eagle Pass is across the border from Piedras Negras. Source: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gHWLUm1UtoG95H7QyRg - GiMC4HQD9COMGH00>

## BANKING AND FINANCE INDUSTRY

*December 26, KTRK 13 Houston* – (Texas) **Robber holds up Crosby bank with fake bomb.** A robber used a fake bomb to hold up a bank in Crosby on December 26. The Harris County Sheriff’s Office says the man pulled up to a drive-through window at the United Community Credit Union on Crosby-Lynchburg on December 26 and handed the teller a package with a note demanding money. She gave him the money and called police. The bomb squad secured the bank and sent a robot to retrieve the device, which turned out to be fake. “I believe it was a homemade hoax bomb,” said a police sergeant with the Harris County Sheriff’s Office. “It does not appear to have been a real device, but it was constructed well. It looked like a real device. And the teller was smart. She didn’t touch it.” The

robber got away in a white Impala. Source:

<http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=7189185>

*December 23, Treasure Coast Palm – (Florida)* **Thieves use electronic device to steal credit card information at ATMs in Martin County.** Dozens of Bank of America customers in Martin County the week of December 21 became victims of an automatic teller machine scam which allows the thieves to swipe card information and steal money, the Martin County Sheriff's Office said. At least \$50,000 from customer accounts was stolen through the scam, which law enforcement officials called "skimming." The thieves place a wireless skimmer and micro-camera on the ATM to capture personal information from unsuspecting card holders, the Sheriff's Office said. The thieves retrieve the devices and make duplicate cards using the PIN numbers captured on the cameras, authorities said. Source: <http://www.tcpalm.com/news/2009/dec/23/thieves-use-electronic-device-to-steal-credit-at/>

*December 23, Boston Globe – (Massachusetts)* **Six indicted in latest loan fraud case.** Adding to a growing roster of mortgage fraud charges in the Boston area, three real estate investors, two mortgage brokers, and a former lawyer were indicted in an alleged scheme involving \$12.5 million in loans and at least 26 distressed properties, the state attorney general's office said December 22. In indictments returned by a Suffolk County grand jury, the six defendants face multiple counts of larceny and other charges related to a scheme that prosecutors allege gained them about \$2 million in profits. They say the group used false documents to defraud homeowners and more than a dozen lenders. Authorities said Boston Equity inflated borrowers' incomes and falsely said the properties would be used as primary residences. Many of the buyers lived out of state. Source: [http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2009/12/23/six\\_indicted\\_in\\_latest\\_loan\\_fraud\\_case/](http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2009/12/23/six_indicted_in_latest_loan_fraud_case/)

*December 23, Aspen Newspapers, Inc. – (Georgia)* **Bank robber uses pipe bomb scare in Johns Creek crime.** Johns Creek, Georgia, police said a bank robber sent a teller what appeared to be a pipe bomb December 11 through the business' drive through lane pneumatic tube system. According to the incident report, the suspect pulled up to the drive through teller lane at the Wachovia at State Bridge and Medlock Bridge roads at about 3:30 p.m. in a gray BMW sports utility vehicle. He sent the teller an apparent pipe bomb with a typed and hand-written note wrapped around it. The note read, "This is a pipe bomb, send me all your 100s and 20s." The teller said she stuffed the canister with around \$3,000 in cash, then sent it back. The suspect left, and his tag was obscured by what looked like white tape, she said. He went north on Medlock Bridge Road, she added. Both FBI agents and Johns Creek detectives are investigating the case. Source: [http://www.northfulton.com/Articles-c-2009-12-23-181295.114126-sub\\_Bank\\_robber\\_uses\\_pipe\\_bomb\\_scare\\_in\\_Johns\\_Creek\\_crime.html](http://www.northfulton.com/Articles-c-2009-12-23-181295.114126-sub_Bank_robber_uses_pipe_bomb_scare_in_Johns_Creek_crime.html)

*December 22, Gainesville Sun – (Florida)* **Starke Police: Man robs bank, leaves behind suspicious device.** A bank robber on December 22 left behind a device with protruding wires in Starke, and it was disposed of as if it were an explosive. Starke police said the robber walked into the Capital City Bank at 350 North Temple Ave. at 10:55 a.m. The man walked up to a teller window and demanded \$50 and \$100 bills. The man also told the teller not to say or do anything. When the teller opened the cash drawer, the man said he also wanted \$10 and \$20 bills. According to images captured by surveillance cameras, the man put the money into a black travel bag, then put the device on the counter and walked out. Witnesses said he was last seen walking south on Clark Street. The Jacksonville Sheriff's Bomb Squad was called in to look at the device, which later was determined not to have been a bomb, according to police. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement processed the

crime scene, and the FBI sent an agent to assist Starke Police. Source:

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20091222/ARTICLES/912229944/1109/SPORTS?Title=Starke-police-Man-rops-bank-leaves-behind-suspicious-device->

## **CHEMICAL AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SECTOR**

Nothing Significant to Report

## **COMMERCIAL FACILITIES**

*December 27, Northwest Florida Daily News – (Florida) **Movie theater evacuated after bomb threat.*** The Twin Cities Cinema was evacuated Sunday evening after a bomb threat was left on the answering machine, according to initial scanner reports. Surrounding businesses in Palm Plaza were also evacuated pending a search by Eglin's Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit. By 11 p.m., the area was swept, but no explosive device was found. Source: <http://www.nwfdailynews.com/news/evacuated-24119-threat-bomb.html>

*December 23, Associated Press – (Louisiana) **Baton Rouge office shooting leaves 2 dead and 1 injured.*** Authorities say they have arrested a gunman who allegedly shot and killed two people and wounded a third at a construction company's office in Baton Rouge. A spokeswoman for the East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office says the suspect in Wednesday's shooting is believed to be a former employee of Grady Crawford Construction Co. and the victims are all company employees. The sheriff's spokeswoman says a foreman at the office tackled and disarmed the suspect as he left the building. She says two of the victims were pronounced dead at the scene, while the third had injuries that were considered life-threatening. She would not identify the suspect and said the victims' identities were being withheld pending notification of relatives. Source: <http://www.wwl.com/Baton-Rouge-office-shooting-leaves-2-dead-and-1-in/5962885>

*December 22, KSL 5 Salt Lake City – (Utah) **Man arrested for bomb threat against Gateway mall.*** Police have jailed a man who they say called in a bomb threat after a customer service dispute with The Gateway mall in Salt Lake City, Utah. Salt Lake City police detectives say the 30-year-old man called Gateway security Friday afternoon and told them a bomb inside a vehicle in the parking structure would go off in 30 minutes. They say he called in the threat after he felt a customer service representative he had just talked to by phone was not nice enough to him. Detectives traced the call back to man's workplace in Murray. They found him still at his desk with the Gateway numbers he had allegedly called still displayed on his desk phone. He was arrested for investigation of making terrorist threats. Source: <http://www.ksl.com/?nid=148&sid=9115387>

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

*December 24, WTOV 9 Steubenville – (Ohio) **Thieves knock out phone service to hundreds of local residents.*** Hundreds of AT&T customers were without landline telephone service after thieves stole 1,200 telephone wires over Wednesday night. The theft happened near Tweed Avenue in Jefferson County. Crews on Thursday were still trying to local a replacement wire but said they do not know if it will arrive in time to fix the lines for Christmas. The theft is the fourth time copper wire has been stolen in the area in the last 1 1/2 years. Source: <http://www.wtov9.com/news/22053958/detail.html>

## **CRITICAL MANUFACTURING**

*December 22, Autoblog* – (National) **Volvo recalls over 140K 2001-2005 and 2010 MY vehicles over fuel system issues.** Vehicles manufactured by Volvo are the subject of two different recalls newly announced by the National Highway Traffic Safety Association (NHTSA). The recalls, both involving problems with fuel systems, cover more than 140,000 vehicles manufactured within the past decade. The first recall is directed at 136,100 2001-2005 model year S60, S80, V70, XC70, and XC90 vehicles sold and operated in warmer climates. According to NHTSA, the fuel pump can develop cracks in its flange when exposed to hot temperatures (and thermal cycling) combined with varying fuel quality. A compromised flange may leak fuel and/or result in a fire. Owners are instructed to bring their vehicles into the dealer for inspection. If the part is defective, Volvo will replaced it with modified flange at no charge. The recall campaign is scheduled to begin in January 2010. The second recall is directed at 5,253 2010 model year XC60 vehicles. According to NHTSA, a fuel line rail cover designed to protect the fuel lines on the XC60 may be improperly attached, thus exposing the lines to damage. The damaged pieces may leak, possibly resulting in a fire. Owners of the affected models are asked to bring their vehicles to the dealer for inspection and/or a repair at no charge. Source: <http://www.autoblog.com/2009/12/22/volvo-recalls-over-140k-2001-2005-and-2010-my-vehicles-over-fuel/>

## **DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE SECTOR**

*December 23, U.S. Government Accountability Office* – (National) **Managing sensitive information: Actions needed to prevent unintended public disclosures of U.S. nuclear sites and activities.** On May 7, 2009, the Government Printing Office (GPO) published a 266-page document on its Web site that provided detailed information on civilian nuclear sites, locations, facilities, and activities in the United States. The GAO report was published on December 15, 2009 and posted for review on December 23. At the request of the Speaker of the House, this report determines (1) which U.S. agencies were responsible for the public release of this information and why the disclosure occurred, and (2) what impact, if any, the release of the information has had on U.S. national security. In performing this work, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) analyzed policies, procedures, and guidance for safeguarding sensitive information and met with officials from four executive branch agencies involved in preparing the document, the White House, the House of Representatives, and GPO. Source: <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-10-251>

*December 22, ABC News* – (National) **Cyber security shortcomings at nuclear labs?** The Department of Energy (DOE), which is responsible for the nation's nuclear weapons and nuclear energy, may jeopardize the security of its technology and lose millions of dollars if it does not improve its cyber security, according to a recent Inspector General's report. Delays by the DOE's Office of Science in enhancing cyber security and standardizing its computer protocols may leave the agency's sensitive information vulnerable and cost taxpayers upwards of \$3 million. DOE has been embarrassed by security lapses in the past, like a past illegal download of classified information at the Los Alamos nuclear lab, the use of unauthorized laptops at the Oak Ridge lab, and successful cyberattacks that may have originated in China. Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/security-shortcomings-nuclear-labs/story?id=9394614>

## **EMERGENCY SERVICES**

*December 28, Associated Press – (International)* **Feds assess terror watchlists after airline attack.**

Federal authorities met Monday to reassess the nation's system of terror watchlists to determine how to avoid the type of lapse that allowed a man with explosives to board a flight to the United States on December 25 even though he was flagged as a possible terrorist. A senior U.S. intelligence official said authorities were reviewing the procedures that govern the lists, which could include how someone is placed on or moved between the various databases. The Administration has ordered investigations into how travelers are placed on watch lists and how passengers are screened. The suspect's name was one of about 550,000 in the Terrorist Identities Datamart Environment database, known as TIDE, which is maintained by the U.S. National Counterterrorism Center. Inclusion in that database does not trigger mandatory additional airport screening. The Homeland Security Secretary conceded Monday that the aviation security system failed in this instance. "An extensive review is under way," she said on Monday. Officials said the suspect came to the attention of U.S. intelligence last month when his father, a prominent Nigerian banker, reported to the American Embassy in Nigeria about his son's increasingly extremist religious views. He had been placed in a U.S. database of people suspected of terrorist ties in November, but officials say there was not enough information about his activities to place him on a watch list that could have kept him from flying. In Britain, the suspect was placed on a standard watch list of people whose visa applications were rejected, but he was not flagged as a potential terror suspect, British officials said Monday. Source:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20091228/ap\\_on\\_go\\_ca\\_st\\_pe/us\\_ airliner\\_attack](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20091228/ap_on_go_ca_st_pe/us_ airliner_attack)

*December 28, Kingsport Times-News – (Virginia)* **Gate City launches automatic alert system.**

Last week Gate City rolled out a new automatic notification service that will be a more efficient way to alert citizens of emergency situations and utility outages, said town officials. The Community Information Service is administered by Nixle LLC, a company that provides the service free to municipalities in several states, and allows Gate City to send authenticated messages to residents in real time by either e-mail, mobile phone or the Internet. "This allows targeted information to go out within a quarter mile of the affected area or to the entire subscriber base," said the Gate City codification and property maintenance administrator. "It allows people to get information that is relevant to them by either cell phone or e-mail. If they don't want to do that, they can go on the Web site and look at the backlog." E-mail and text message alerts require registration, while none is needed to view advisories on the Nixle Web site (nixle.com). Source:

<http://www.timesnews.net/article.php?id=9019336>

*December 24, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette – (Pennsylvania)* **Vehicle can serve as emergency hub in South Fayette.**

South Fayette police are ready to hit the road with a new van that can serve as a self-sufficient mobile command center in a catastrophe. The vehicle, a 2010 Ford E-350 van, includes communications facilities, computers and a generator to recharge batteries. Because the van can move directly to the scene, information can be taken and relayed more quickly and accurately to improve the township's critical incident capabilities over its nearly 21-square-mile territory. It also could prove useful at fire scenes. Portable police radios generally fade after two to three hours, but the van's generator can keep them operating for a longer time. The new van can transport up to three officers, and it holds emergency police equipment such as protective shields. Source:

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/09358/1023184-57.stm>

## **ENERGY**

*December 26, Memphis Commercial Appeal* – (Tennessee) **Man faces terrorism charge after threats.**

A Memphis man was arrested December 25 after he walked into seven local businesses and announced that he would bomb them if they did not close, according to a police affidavit. The report states that the 35-year-old man threatened businesses on Poplar Avenue, Summer Avenue, Mendenhall, Perkins, and Danny Thomas Boulevard. "If you don't close this place up, I'm going to blow it to pieces," he told customers at the BP Gas Station on the 300 block of Poplar, according to the report. A police officer pulled over the suspect's black PT Cruiser on Poplar and arrested the man, who was "very nervous" and appeared as if "he was trying to hide something," the report stated. The suspect tried to kick out the windows of a patrol car during the arrest and police said they had to use pepper spray to subdue him. The FBI found three Islamic cassette tapes and miscellaneous papers in the suspect's car, which were removed for additional study, according to the affidavit. Police charged him with commission of an act of terrorism, filing false reports, and disorderly conduct. He posted \$100 bond and was released, pending his court date on December 28. Source:

<http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2009/dec/26/man-faces-terrorism-charge-after-threats/>

*December 24, Huntsville Times* – (Alabama) **TVA cited in 2 incidents of retaliation against workers.**

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) violated rules designed to allow workers to express safety concerns without fear of retaliation in two separate incidents at its Browns Ferry Nuclear plant near Athens, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) said Wednesday. The incidents occurred in 2005 and 2007. In the first incident a contractor working on quality assurance programs during the Browns Ferry Unit 1 restart was removed from his position at Browns Ferry. The NRC determined he was terminated, at least in part, for raising safety concerns to management. The worker accused his manager of being "too close to the line organization" to do his job properly, the NRC said. The worker was removed from the TVA project, but did not lose his job with his employer, a TVA spokesman said Wednesday. In the second incident, a temporary maintenance foreman was demoted after raising questions about the utility's handling of its "fit to work" program, which tries to screen out workers who may be using drugs or alcohol or have other problems that can affect performance. Source:

<http://www.al.com/news/huntsvilletimes/local.ssf?/base/news/1261649758316800.xml&coll=1>

*December 23, Minneapolis City Pages* – (Minnesota) **Suspected power substation copper thief**

**darkens chunk of Eagan.** One man was hospitalized with burns, and two others were questioned by police after 7,100 Eagan residents found themselves without power overnight following an explosion at a Dakota Electric substation. KARE 11 reported that police converged on the Taconite Trail electrical substation at about 12:30 a.m. following reports of an explosion. When they got there, they found the three men and some bolt cutters. The power company believes the men were trying to steal copper. Source: [http://blogs.citypages.com/blotter/2009/12/suspected\\_power.php](http://blogs.citypages.com/blotter/2009/12/suspected_power.php)

## **FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

*December 27, United Press International* – (National) **Plant recalls 248,000 pounds of beef.** National Steak and Poultry has recalled 248,000 pounds of beef products from six states because of a risk of E. coli, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspectors said. The inspectors, working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said they linked meat from the plant to an outbreak of E. coli in the six states. National Steak and Poultry, of Owasso, Oklahoma issued the recall in Colorado, Iowa,

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Kansas, South Dakota, Michigan, and Washington, the USDA said in a release. The recall included products labeled National Steak and Poultry beef sirloin steak, boneless beef tips, boneless beef sirloin steak, savory sirloin tips, bacon wrapped beef fillet, select beef shoulder, marinated tender medallions, Philly steak and boneless beef trimmings. Each package contained a label marked "EST. 6010T" inside the USDA mark of inspection and packaging dates of October 12-14 or October 21.

Source: [http://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/US/2009/12/27/Plant-recalls-248000-pounds-of-beef/UPI-14841261934051/](http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2009/12/27/Plant-recalls-248000-pounds-of-beef/UPI-14841261934051/)

*December 24, U.S. Food Safety and Inspection Service – (Maine; New Hampshire) **Maine firm recalls ham products for possible Listeria contamination.*** Associated Grocers of Maine, an importing firm in Gardiner, Maine, is recalling approximately 312 pounds of ham products that may be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced. Each package bears the establishment number "141" inside the Canadian seal of inspection and a Sell by date of "10JA24." The ham products were produced on November 25, 2009, and distributed to retail establishments in Maine and New Hampshire. The problem was discovered by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) who notified FSIS. The CFIA notified FSIS that some of the recalled ham products had been exported to the United States. FSIS has received no reports of illnesses associated with consumption of this product. Source:

[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News\\_&\\_Events/Recall\\_068\\_2009\\_Release/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Recall_068_2009_Release/index.asp)

## **GOVERNMENT SECTOR (INCLUDING SCHOOLS & UNIVERSITIES)**

*December 24, Oroville Mercury Register – (California) **Inmate accused of false bomb threat — again.*** A Chico, California, man in custody and awaiting sentencing for several false bomb threats allegedly struck again Tuesday with a phone call from Butte County Jail claiming a bomb was inside a Butte County office on Table Mountain Boulevard, according to Oroville police. It is the second time the inmate made a false telephone bomb threat to Butte County Children's Services while incarcerated, authorities said Wednesday. The first time was June 5. Police arrested the 29 year-old suspect early Tuesday night at Butte County Jail. He was again booked on suspicion of maliciously reporting a false bomb threat. The suspect has been in custody since late February. He pleaded no contest last September to four counts of making false bomb threats and one count of assault with a deadly weapon. Source: [http://www.chicoer.com/news/ci\\_14062588?source=rss](http://www.chicoer.com/news/ci_14062588?source=rss)

*December 23, Associated Press – (Illinois) **Feds address concerns over safety of Ill. prison.*** Federal officials tried on December 22 to allay fears that moving terror suspects from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to a rural western Illinois prison could make the state a terrorist target. The director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons told a legislative panel that a new perimeter fence and other measures would make Thomson Correctional Center "the most secure of all federal prisons in the country." The governor plans to sell the prison to the federal government to house detainees and for a maximum-security federal prison, and the December 22 public hearing probably will not change that. The 12-member Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability could vote on a recommendation to sell the prison that skirts the Mississippi River, but the governor does not have to follow the recommendation. The hearing adjourned December 22, and the commission said it would not vote on the proposal before January 14. Many in Thomson, about 20 miles from Sterling, and other northwest Illinois communities say they welcome the estimated 3,000 jobs that the White House says would be generated by the prison. But opponents say the move is too risky. The Defense Department's

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principal director in the office of detainee policy insisted the area would be safe. "Allow me to be perfectly clear: The security of the facility and that of the surrounding community is our paramount concern," he told the panel. Source:

[http://www.beloitdailynews.com/articles/2009/12/23/news/local\\_news/news122314.txt](http://www.beloitdailynews.com/articles/2009/12/23/news/local_news/news122314.txt)

*December 23, Associated Press* – (Connecticut) **Inmate slits guard's neck with blade in high-security prison.** An inmate at the state's highest security prison slashed a guard's throat with a homemade blade during a routine security check, prompting a lockdown, authorities said December 23. A State police lieutenant said the officer was taking the prisoner out of his cell December 22 for a routine security check at Northern Correctional Institution in Somers. The inmate punched the guard, slashed him with the weapon, and continued fighting until other guards restrained him. The guard received stitches and was released from the hospital December 22. The lieutenant declined to identify the guard or inmate, one of approximately 415 prisoners at the maximum-security facility. State police are investigating the attack to decide whether to charge the inmate. The lockdown was expected to be lifted later December 23. Northern is the state's highest security prison, housing 10 death row inmates as well as prisoners who officials say "have demonstrated a serious inability to adjust to confinement" and who threaten the safety of guards and other inmates. The facility has been on lockdown several times over the past few months. Source:

[http://www.chieftain.com/articles/2009/12/23/news/latest\\_news/doc4b3254fd9a19e635659776.txt](http://www.chieftain.com/articles/2009/12/23/news/latest_news/doc4b3254fd9a19e635659776.txt)

*December 23, Associated Press* – (Wyoming) **White powder forces Sheridan courthouse evacuation.** The delivery of an envelope holding white powder has forced the evacuation of parts of the courthouse in Sheridan. An official with the Sheridan County Sheriff's Office says an envelope holding white powder was mailed to the circuit court on Tuesday. Officials say they have identified a "person of interest" but no one has been arrested yet in the incident. Officials say preliminary tests show the powder was a food product, and not toxic. All areas of the courthouse were open again on Wednesday. Source: <http://www.localnews8.com/Global/story.asp?S=11725055>

*December 23, Associated Press* – (Hawaii) **Mental exam ordered in First Lady threatening case.** A mental competency examination has been ordered for a woman accused of threatening to kill the First Lady. The exam for the suspect was ordered Wednesday by a U.S. Magistrate at the request of prosecutors. The motion was not opposed by the federal deputy public defender. The 35-year-old suspect will remain in custody. The judge scheduled another hearing in the case for February 9. Wednesday's hearing came one day before the President and his family was expected to arrive in Hawaii for a Christmas vacation. The suspect was arrested December 19 and charged with threatening a family member of the President. The Secret Service says the suspect threatened to kill the First Lady in a call last month to its Boston office. Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5g5IO15mYs9-Drhygaxle6eM94kKgD9CPARNGO>

*December 22, IDG News Service* – (Massachusetts) **Inmate gets 18 months for hacking prison computer.** A former Massachusetts prison inmate has been given an 18-month prison sentence for hacking prison computers while he was incarcerated. He was sentenced December 22 in federal court in Boston for abusing a computer provided by the Plymouth County Correctional Facility. The computer had been set up to help inmates with their legal research. In 2006, he managed to circumvent computer controls and use the machine to send e-mail and cull data on more than 1,100 Plymouth County prison employees. He gained access to sensitive information such as their dates of

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birth, Social Security Numbers, telephone numbers, home addresses, and employment records. The computer he used was a so-called thin client computer that simply connected to another machine on the network and did not store any data itself, prosecutors said in his indictment. The only program it was supposed to run was the prison's legal research application. However, he found a way of "exploiting an idiosyncrasy in the legal research software" so he could access other programs via the terminal. He even found a way of downloading Internet video, prosecutors said. Whether he will face any such restrictions in prison is unclear. Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9142628/Inmate\\_gets\\_18\\_months\\_for\\_hacking\\_prison\\_computer](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9142628/Inmate_gets_18_months_for_hacking_prison_computer)

*December 21, Idaho Press-Tribune* – (Idaho) **Bomb threat reported at courthouse this morning; Building declared safe after search.** Officials say a bomb threat was called in to the Canyon County Courthouse at about 10:30 a.m. Monday. The Canyon County Sheriff's Office and courthouse officials did a sweep of the entire building, searching for any kind of suspicious devices. By about 11:15 a.m., the courthouse was declared clear after nothing was found. Only some courthouse employees were told to evacuate the building. Although with past bomb threats the courthouse protocol was to evacuate the entire building, that policy was altered Monday for safety reasons, according to a Canyon County communications officer. Source: <http://www.idahopress.com/?id=28671>

## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

*December 24, Wall Street Journal* – (National) **Attack disrupts Web sites.** Multiple Internet sites, including those run by Amazon.com Inc., were temporarily disrupted for some Web users after a company that provides them directory services suffered what it called a "denial of service" attack. Neustar Inc., which runs the UltraDNS service that helps process the connections between individual computers and Web sites, says the disruption lasted about an hour and only affected Web users in Northern California. The company said it began to notice an unusual spike in traffic on its servers at about 7:45 p.m. Eastern Time, which led to the outage. "Immediately we identified it and put mitigation measures into effect," said a Neustar spokesman. The attack caused Web users in Silicon Valley and other parts of Northern California to get either an error message or delayed response when trying to access a site that uses the directory service from UltraDNS. The spokesman said the company is still investigating the source of the attack. He said the attack "was not focused on one particular site or another." But he declined to name the companies that were affected. Though limited geographically, the disruption came during the final hours of online shopping in the crucial holiday season. Besides affecting sites that serve their customers directly, the attack underscores the risks as companies increasingly outsource computing tasks to be managed by other vendors. A site run by Amazon that tracks availability of its Web services reported that "some customers in the West Coast are experiencing issues with resolving DNS. A spokeswoman for Salesforce.com Inc., which provides online software for businesses, said that the company also experienced an hour-long service interruption. Source:

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703521904574615032671717354.html?mod=WSJ\\_hpp\\_MIDDLTopStories](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703521904574615032671717354.html?mod=WSJ_hpp_MIDDLTopStories)

*December 23, PC Magazine* – (International) **RIM pins outage on BlackBerry messenger update.** A flaw in two recently released versions of BlackBerry Messenger appears to be the cause of Tuesday night's BlackBerry e-mail outage, Research in Motion said in a December 23 statement. "Root cause is

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currently under review, but based on preliminary analysis, it currently appears that the issue stemmed from a flaw in two recently released versions of BlackBerry Messenger (versions 5.0.0.55 and 5.0.0.56) that caused an unanticipated database issue within the BlackBerry infrastructure,” according to RIM. “RIM has taken corrective action to restore service.” RIM released a new version of BlackBerry Messenger (version 5.0.0.57) and encouraged any user who upgraded their Messenger since December 14 to download the latest version. “RIM continues to monitor its systems to maintain normal service levels and apologizes for any inconvenience to customers,” the company said. Late Tuesday night, RIM confirmed that its BlackBerry service had suffered its second e-mail outage in five days. Users were unable to receive messages or chat via BlackBerry Messenger, though calling and texting functions were unaffected. Source: <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2357519,00.asp>

*December 23, V3.co.uk* – (International) **SEO poisoners exploiting Windows Live Spaces.** Security experts are warning that hackers are now using Microsoft’s Live Spaces blogging platform in order to push up the popularity of fraudulent online pharmaceutical sites in a strategy known as search engine poisoning. In a posting on the Threat Center Live blog, security firm eSoft explained that cyber criminals are making use of Windows Live Spaces as well as Yahoo and Google Blogger platforms – registering accounts and then using those accounts to link to the fraudulent sites, thus pushing up the search engine ranking of those sites. “Additionally, the spam emails now link to these fake blogs rather than directly to the pharma-fraud site in an effort to better evade spam filters that might otherwise detect the link to the fraudulent website,” the posting noted. “Whatever the distribution method, it’s clear these cybercriminals will stop at nothing and continue to evolve new ways of advertising their bogus sites.” Search engine poisoning or blackhat SEO is becoming an increasingly popular method for cyber criminals to boost click throughs onto their fake and malicious sites and increase infection rates. Source: <http://www.v3.co.uk/v3/news/2255427/seo-poisoners-exploiting>

*December 23, DarkReading* – (International) **Facebook hit by clickjacking attack.** Facebook is cleaning up after a clickjacking attack that infiltrated the social networking site this week — and security experts say this will not be the last such attack. Clickjacking, in which an attacker slips a malicious link or malware onto a legitimate Web page that appears to contain normal content, is an emerging threat experts have been warning about. The attack on Facebook was in the form of a comment on a user’s account with a photo that lured the victim to click on it. The embedded link took the victim to a Web page that presented like a CAPTCHA or Turing test, and asked the user to click on a blue “Share” button on the Facebook page. Once clicked, the victim is redirected to a YouTube video, and then the same post shows up on the victim’s account and thus tries to infect his or her friends. Security experts say the attack appeared to be more of a prank or trial balloon, and it affects only Firefox and Chrome browsers, according to a security expert who blogged about the attack the week of December 14. Facebook has now blocked the URL to the malicious site, fb.59.to. “This problem isn’t specific to Facebook, but we’re always working to improve our systems and are building additional protections against this type of behavior. We’ve blocked the URL associated with this site, and we’re cleaning up the relatively few cases where it was posted — something email providers, for example, can’t do,” a Facebook spokesperson says. Source: <http://www.darkreading.com/insidethreat/security/attacks/showArticle.ihtml?articleID=222100098>

*December 23, IDG News Service* – (International) **Hackers hit OpenX ad server in Adobe attack.** Hackers have exploited flaws in a popular open-source advertising software to place malicious code on advertisements on several popular Web sites over the past week. The attackers are taking

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advantage of a pair of bugs in the OpenX advertising software to login to advertising servers and then place malicious code on ads being served on the sites. On December 21, cartoon syndicator King Features said that it had been hacked the week of December 14, because of the OpenX bugs. The company's Comics Kingdom product, which delivers comics and ads to about 50 Web sites, was affected. Another OpenX user, the Ain't It Cool News Web site, was reportedly hit with a similar attack the week of December 14. OpenX said that it was aware of "no major vulnerabilities associated with the current version of the software – 2.8.2 – in either its downloaded or hosted forms," in an e-mailed statement. At least one OpenX user believes that the current version of the product may be vulnerable to part of this attack, however. In a forum post, a user said that he was hacked while running an older version of the software, but that the current (2.8.2) version is also vulnerable. "If you are running a current, unmodified release of OpenX, it is possible to anonymously log in to the admin site and gain administrator-level control of the system," he wrote. When researchers at Praetorian Security Group looked at the Adobe attack, it did not leverage the unpatched Adobe bug, said a partner with the security consultancy. Instead, the attack marshalled an assortment of three different Adobe exploits, he said. "We're seeing no evidence that it's the Oday that will be patched by Adobe in January." Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9142643/Hackers\\_hit\\_OpenX\\_ad\\_server\\_in\\_Adobe\\_attack?taxonomyId=17&pageNumber=1](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9142643/Hackers_hit_OpenX_ad_server_in_Adobe_attack?taxonomyId=17&pageNumber=1)

## **NATIONAL MONUMENTS AND ICONS**

Nothing Significant to Report

## **POSTAL AND SHIPPING**

*December 24, Associated Press – (Virginia) Man in wheelchair surrenders after Va. hostage standoff.*

A disabled man in a wheelchair who authorities say held three people for more than eight hours inside a small-town Virginia post office surrendered to police after freeing the hostages unharmed. The suspect, from Sullivan County, Tennessee, was being questioned and authorities did not have a motive, a police spokesman said. The suspect was scheduled to appear in federal court in Roanoke at 9:30 a.m. Thursday. The standoff began at about 2:30 p.m. Wednesday after the suspect, who has an artificial leg, pushed the wheelchair into the one-story post office in the mountain town of Wytheville in western Virginia, state police said. Shots were fired soon after the suspect entered the building, but no one was injured and at least two of the hostages were able to call family or friends. About 8 hours later, authorities ordered the suspect to come out. The three hostages walked out first and the suspect followed, this time sitting in the wheelchair. Dozens of SWAT members surrounding the building did not have to fire a shot. Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2009-12-23-virginia-hostage\\_N.htm?loc=interstitialskip](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2009-12-23-virginia-hostage_N.htm?loc=interstitialskip)

*December 23, Arkansas Online – (Arkansas) Explosive device found in mailbox.* An apparent pipe bomb that turned out to be loaded with explosives from fireworks was detonated by police Tuesday after a North Little Rock, Arkansas, resident discovered it in her mailbox. No one was injured and no arrest has been made. The victim called authorities to her Arbor Oaks Drive home early Tuesday night after finding what appeared to be a cardboard cigar container wrapped in electrical tape and with a fuse sticking out, according to a Pulaski County sheriff's office report. But after conducting a controlled blast to disable the device, officials learned the apparent BBs were actually pyrotechnic

pellets from fireworks and not projectiles, the report said. The remains of the device were turned over to a United States Postal Inspector, who took over the investigation because it involved a mailbox. Source: <http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2009/dec/23/explosive-device-found-mailbox/>

## **PUBLIC HEALTH/SAFETY**

*December 27, Sumter Item* – (National) **CDC: H1N1 vaccine will be available soon.** According to the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, the H1N1 vaccine should be readily available soon, despite a recent recall of nasal swine flu vaccinations. During a telephone news conference held on December 23, the director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases said the supply of H1N1 vaccine is “getting better and better,” with about 111 million doses having been ordered around the country. “We think right now that at least 60 million people have been vaccinated with the H1N1 vaccine,” the director explained. “But we know that about half of Americans want to be vaccinated and only about one in three have been able to be vaccinated.” Vaccines are much more readily available now than they have been in recent weeks, she said, adding that now is the time to act for those who have not been vaccinated. Source:

<http://www.theitem.com/article/20091227/ITNEWS01/712279920/-1/ITNEWS>

*December 27, Associated Press* – (International) **Danger at home: Rare form of TB comes to U.S.** The Associated Press has learned of the first U.S. case of a contagious, aggressive, especially drug-resistant form of tuberculosis as part of a six-month look at the soaring global challenge of drug resistance. The strain — so-called extremely drug-resistant (XXDR) TB — has never before been seen in the U.S., according to one of the nation’s leading experts on tuberculosis. XXDR tuberculosis is so rare that only a handful of other people in the world are thought to have had it. Today, all the leading killer infectious diseases on the planet — TB, malaria and HIV among them — are mutating at an alarming rate, hitchhiking their way in and out of countries. The reason: overuse and misuse of the very drugs that were supposed to save people. Just as the drugs were a manmade solution to dangerous illness, the problem with them is also manmade. It is fueled worldwide by everything from counterfeit drugmakers to the unintended consequences of giving drugs to the poor without properly monitoring their treatment. Here is what the AP found: In Cambodia, scientists have confirmed the emergence of a new drug-resistant form of malaria, threatening the only treatment left to fight a disease that already kills 1 million people a year. In Africa, new and harder to treat strains of HIV are being detected in about 5 percent of new patients. HIV drug resistance rates have shot up to as high as 30 percent worldwide. In the U.S., drug-resistant infections killed more than 65,000 people last year — more than prostate and breast cancer combined. More than 19,000 people died from a staph infection alone that has been eliminated in Norway, where antibiotics are stringently limited. Source: [http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/34516639/ns/health-infectious\\_diseases/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/34516639/ns/health-infectious_diseases/)

*December 22, Reuters* – (National) MedImmune recalling swine flu vaccine-FDA. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration said on Tuesday AstraZeneca’s MedImmune unit is voluntarily recalling some of its H1N1 swine flu vaccine because it was not as potent as it should be. The director of the office of vaccines research and review at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said the recall involves a total of 4.7 million doses of the company’s nasal spray vaccine, but only about 3,000 of those doses are left in warehouses. The rest of the doses were given out in October and November, when the

vaccine was still at full potency, he told reporters on a conference call. The FDA said people who had already received the vaccine do not need another dose. The company is the second to recall H1N1 swine flu vaccine in the past month. Sanofi-Aventis SA on December 15 recalled 800,000 doses of its pediatric H1N1 swine flu vaccine because it is not as potent as it should be. Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN2213056920091223>

#### Infant Car Seats Recalled (Public Safety)

Dorel Juvenile Group Inc., of Columbus, Ind HAS recalled about 447,000 of its infant car seat carriers, including some branded with Eddie Bauer and Disney logos, after dozens of reports of the carrier's handle coming loose. The company received 77 reports of the child restraint handle fully or partially coming off the products. Consumers should immediately stop using the seat's carrying handle until a repair kit has been installed. The recall involves Safety 1st, Cosco, Eddie Bauer and Disney branded infant car seat carriers with certain model numbers. They were sold at department and children's product stores nationwide from January 2008 through this month. **Consumers can order these free repair kits by contacting Dorel at 866-762-3316.** <http://www.wtvr.com/news/wtvr-carseatrecall0091218,0,1421013.story>

## TRANSPORTATION

*December 28, Associated Press – (International)* **Flight 253 explosive common, easily detectable.** The explosive device used by the would-be Detroit bomber contained a widely available — and easily detected — chemical explosive that has a long history of terrorist use, according to government officials and explosive experts. The chemical — PETN — is small, powerful and appealing to terrorists. The Saudi government said it was used in an assassination attempt on the country's counterterrorism operations chief in August. It was also a component of the explosive that the convicted "shoe bomber" used in his 2001 attempt to down an airliner. PETN was widely used in the plastic explosives terrorists used to blow up airplanes in the 1970s and 1980s. Investigators say the suspect hid an explosive device on his body when he traveled from Amsterdam to Detroit on Northwest Flight 253. They say PETN was hidden in a condom or condom-like bag just below his torso. The man also had a syringe filled with liquid. One law enforcement official said the second part of the explosive concoction used in the Christmas Day incident is still being tested but appears to be a glycol-based liquid explosive. PETN is the primary ingredient in detonating cords used for industrial explosions and can be collected by scraping the insides of the wire, said an explosives expert. Law enforcement officials said modern airport screening machines could have detected the chemical. Airport "puffer" machines — the devices that blow air onto a passenger to collect and analyze residues — would probably have detected the powder, as would bomb-sniffing dogs or a hands-on search using a swab. Hidden in the man's clothing, the explosive might have also been detected by the full-body imaging scanners now making their way into airports. However, the man did not pass through either type of scanner in Nigeria or Amsterdam, said a congressman on the Homeland Security Committee. Source: [http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/34607732/ns/us\\_news-security/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/34607732/ns/us_news-security/)

*December 28, Agence France Presse – (International)* **'Disruptive passenger' caught on another US flight.** A Northwest Airlines flight crew sought emergency assistance on Sunday for a disruptive passenger who was taken into custody as the plane landed in Detroit, an airline official said. Amid heightened global security concerns, the disturbance occurred on the same Northwest Flight 253 that was attacked by a terror suspect on Christmas Day. On the flight, which arrived in Detroit from

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Amsterdam, “there was a verbally disruptive passenger, and out of an abundance of caution the flight crew requested law enforcement meet the aircraft,” said a spokeswoman for Delta. CNN reported that one person was taken off Sunday’s plane and into federal custody, citing a law enforcement officer saying that no device was found on the detained passenger. U.S. media cited government sources saying the passenger barricaded himself in the bathroom for more than an hour. Source: <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/front-page/16-disruptive-passenger-caught-on-another-us-flight-829-hs-09>

*December 28, KNXV 15 Phoenix* – (Florida) **TSA: 2 passengers talking ‘suspiciously’ removed from plane.** Officials say two passengers who were removed from a Phoenix-bound flight Saturday after others aboard the plane noticed “suspicious” activity were not doing anything wrong. A spokesperson with Transportation Security Administration (TSA), said US Airways Flight 192 was inbound from Orlando, Florida when a passenger reported seeing two other passengers talking “suspiciously.” A FBI spokesperson said a female passenger overheard the two men, described by officials as Middle Eastern, speaking loudly in a foreign language and reported them to airline staff. According to the spokesperson, the two men were talking about being late for their flight and not being able to shop at the airport before boarding their flight to Phoenix. The men were reportedly watching the movie “The Kingdom” on a portable DVD player while talking, and the female passenger, who was sitting near the men, thought this was suspicious and reported them to flight personnel. The two men were removed from the flight and questioned by the FBI. The spokesmen said they were fully cooperative and it was determined the men had done nothing wrong. They were released and allowed to continue on to their final destination, Los Angeles. Source: <http://www.abc15.com/content/news/phoenixmetro/central/story/TSA-2-passengers-talking-suspiciously-removed/42w5KMCzcE-2mf6aiRePow.csp>

*December 27, Washington Post* – (Virginia) **Broken pipe floods Reagan terminal.** A broken pipe sent water spewing into part of a terminal at Reagan National Airport Saturday afternoon, creating a major disruption, authorities said. The break closed much or most of Terminal C, the center of US Airways operations, said an airport spokeswoman. Flooding shut down the Terminal C baggage claim area and electricity was shut off to the US Airways pier there, the spokeswoman said. US Airways operations at National were halted for the rest of the day. By Saturday night, the water had been shut off, but the cause of the problem remained unclear. A second airport spokeswoman said it involved a break in a supply pipe, which is a kind of fire hydrant attached to the wall of the terminal. Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/12/26/AR2009122601382.html?wprss=rss\\_metro](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/12/26/AR2009122601382.html?wprss=rss_metro)

*December 23, United Press International* – (National) **Air marshal weapon details made public.** Details of the gun type U.S. air marshals will soon be carrying have been made public, a move marshals say could put them and air passengers at risk. With the approval of the Transportation Security Administration, manufacturer Sig Sauer released specifics of the weapons in a press release, ABC News reported December 22. Sig Sauer has a contract to equip air marshals with its .357 SIG caliber P250 Compact pistol, ABC said. Current and former Air Marshals called the release part of “an alarming pattern of disclosures” by the TSA. “This is the last thing you want to give to anyone who wants to carry out an act of terror,” said the president of a trade group representing the marshals. “Anyone who wants to take over a plane can be proactive and research that type of weapon, basically know everything about that weapon before going on the plane,” he said. “You really don’t want to

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give that playbook out to your enemy.” The air marshals approved the information released, a Sig Sauer spokesman said. “They changed it slightly, but there was no sensitive information in it,” said the vice president for marketing at Sig Sauer. Source:

[http://www.upi.com/Top\\_News/US/2009/12/23/Air-marshall-weapon-details-made-public/UPI-25251261617255/](http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2009/12/23/Air-marshall-weapon-details-made-public/UPI-25251261617255/)

December 23, Associated Press – (Tennessee) **Man accused of bomb threat gets court date; overbooked flight cited.** A man who police say threatened to “blow up” an airplane after getting bumped from an overbooked flight at the Nashville airport is scheduled to appear in court December 23. He was charged with making a felony false report and was arrested December 19 at the Nashville International Airport. According to a police affidavit, the 26-year-old became irate with a Continental Airline employee when she told him he would have to be put on another flight. The affidavit said he told her, “If I don’t get a seat, I’m going to blow up the airplane.” He continued to be angry and threatened to “blow up” the airport, according to the affidavit. He was being held at the Davidson County jail on a \$10,000 bond. Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2009-12-23-bomb-threatcourtdate\\_N.htm?csp=34&utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+UsatodaycomTravel-TopStories+\(Travel+-+Top+Stories](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2009-12-23-bomb-threatcourtdate_N.htm?csp=34&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+UsatodaycomTravel-TopStories+(Travel+-+Top+Stories)

## WATER AND DAMS

Nothing Significant to Report

## 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](mailto: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

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

Sgt. Brad Smith, Highway Patrol, [btsmith@nd.gov](mailto:btsmith@nd.gov) , 701-328-8169

Amy Anton, ND Division of Homeland Security, [ajanton@nd.gov](mailto:ajanton@nd.gov), 701-328-8124

Kirk Hagel, ND Division of Homeland Security [kihagel@nd.gov](mailto:kihagel@nd.gov), 701-328-8116

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Kristopher Elijah, ND National Guard [kristopher.elijah@us.army.mil](mailto:kristopher.elijah@us.army.mil), 701-333-2138

Patti Clemo, ND Fusion Center Intelligence Analyst, [prcleo@nd.gov](mailto:prcleo@nd.gov), 701-328-8165

