



Washington Regional Threat and Analysis Center

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◆.....◆
Washington DC Threat Level



Alert Level Yellow
ELEVATED CONDITION
◆.....◆



Officer Safety & Criminal Intelligence Issues

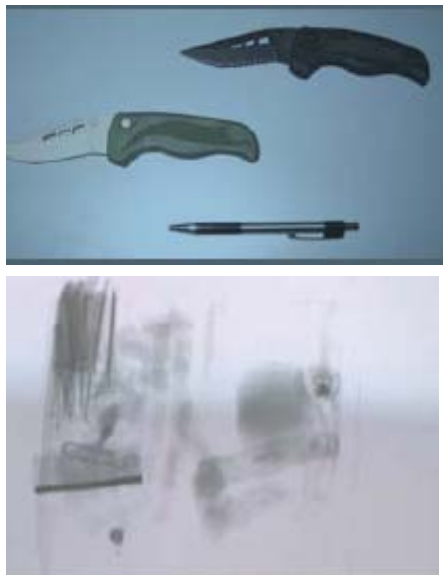
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OFFICER SAFETY AWARENESS

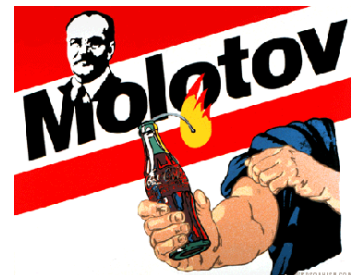
ZYTEL KNIVES: American Tactical Imports is offering Zytel folding knives that defeat metal detector screening equipment. Zytel is a plastic made of a nylon resin produced by DuPont, it is lightweight and very durable. The photos indicate what two knives look like open and how they appear when x-rayed. The knives were undetectable in both a walkthrough metal detector and with the hand wands. The knives are very lightweight and open with a spring assist. They sell for around \$13.00. American Tactical offers this item as a survival tool for camping fishing and law enforcement purposes



For additional information refer to to the following link: www.americantactical.us

Source: Indiana State Police Weekly Bulletin, 16 March 2009

FLAMELESS “MOLOTOV COCKTAIL” PRESENTS CHALLENGES: A Molotov cocktail-like incendiary device, known as a “chemical fire bottle,” was used by rioters overseas in December 2008. The device does not use a wick for ignition; instead, it ignites through rapid chemical reaction, making it difficult for law enforcement to identify. The chemicals sulfuric acid, which is added to



the fuel, and potassium perchlorate, which is soaked into a paper label or wrapping, mix when the bottle breaks and ignite the incendiary device.

Possible Indicators of Incendiary Devices

Molotov Cocktails: Traditional fuel-in-bottle gasoline bombs (Molotov cocktails) often are used during violent demonstrations. A reliable indicator is a cloth wick protruding from a bottle opening, which is the ignition source.

Chemical Fire Bottle: This device has no wick. A simple pre-use indicator of the chemical fire bottle is the presence of numerous glass bottles from which no wicks or fuses are protruding. The bottles also may be wrapped in paper.

Instructions for creating this type of flameless device are found in *The Anarchist's Cookbook* as well as *The Poor Man's James Bond*. Production of such devices may be identified by the following items:

- Sulfuric Acid (H₂SO₄), which has numerous industrial and commercial applications. Some drain cleaners are made from concentrated sulfuric acid.
- Potassium perchlorate (KClO₄), a colorless, crystalline powder with many pyrotechnic applications, which can be purchased easily on the Internet or harvested from some types of fireworks. Other “recipes” call for potassium chlorate (KClO₃), which is similar in appearance.

Comment: Both motor oil and liquid soap can be added to either device to thicken the fuel. This enables the flame to burn longer and causes the fuel to stick to items it comes into contact with.

Source: DHS / FBI Roll Call Release # IA-0207-09, 18 March 2009

MAGICJACK: The magicJack is a very small USB device that plugs into a computer, DSL modem, or router and has a traditional telephone jack to provide customers with unlimited phone service for the first year. Customers purchase this device online and pay a flat fee for unlimited local and long distance calls. This service is designed to compete with other VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) companies such as Vonage and Skype. This device can be plugged into any USB port or phone and the customer does not have to inform their internet service provider that they are using magicJack. Consideration to seizing this device for investigative



purposes may be appropriate as the device captures telecommunication data. The use of this product is not limited to the United States.

For additional product information, refer to the following link: www.magicjack.com.

Source: Atlanta HIDTA

ROAD SPIKES: Recently, a police officer in New York was patrolling commercial properties in his patrol area and checking parking lots. As he drove through one lot, he ran over an item in the lot which became lodged in the underside of his patrol vehicle immediately disabling the vehicle. The device was constructed of stainless steel 1/2 inch piping that was bent and welded together. The design was made in a way that no matter how the device landed on the ground it lands with one spike up. The stainless steel pipe provides great strengths and rigidity and keeps the device from bending. The device is designed to be run over by a car and as the unit turns from being struck, the two spikes that are down rotate up into the undercarriage of the car piercing the lower radiator hose, radiator, oil pan, oil cooler, fan shroud and anything else it may come into contact with, thus causing the car to be disabled and undrivable.



Comment: These and similar types of items have been used historically by criminals and drug traffickers to facilitate their escape from crime scenes and terminate any police pursuits.

Source: Marlborough, NY Police Department / Peel Regional Police Airport Division, Daily Open Source Briefing Notes, 24 March 2009



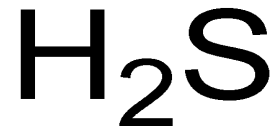
“YEAR IN HATE” HATE GROUPS: A GROWING THREAT?: According to the "Year in Hate" report recently released by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), there are approximately 926 active hate groups in the United States as of December 2008. This number is an increase of more than 4 percent from the 888 groups

identified in 2007, and far above the 602 groups documented in 2000. The SPLC, a professional watchdog of right wing groups, suggests "the continuing rise has been fueled by immigration fears, a faltering economy, and the successful campaign of President Barack Obama." When reviewing the report, the Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) observed that the hate groups listed include neo-Nazis, white nationalists, white supremacists, neo-Confederates, racist skinheads, Klansmen, black separatists, etc. The document also discusses other groups that target gays or immigrants, and those specializing in producing racist music or propaganda denying the Holocaust. Senior officials from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) have on several occasions expressed their growing concern over these groups. "The most worrisome trend to law enforcement and private industry alike has been the increase in willingness by these movements to resort to the use of incendiary and explosive devices," said the ATF deputy assistant director. The EMR-ISAC recognizes that the attention given to transnational terrorism often overshadows the possible threat from domestic hate groups. However, FBI officials recommend awareness of such groups by law enforcement, fire, and the emergency medical services.

To obtain greater comprehension of this growing American problem, see the "Year in Hate" at <http://www.splcenter.org/news/item.jsp?aid=366>.

Source: Florida Intelligence Unit eINTEL, 25 March 2009

HYDROGEN SULFIDE: A POTENTIAL FIRST RESPONDER HAZARD



Key Findings

- DHS/Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A) and the Los Angeles Joint Regional Intelligence Center (JRIC) assess that an intentional release of hydrogen sulfide gas most likely would be by a person using it to commit suicide, thus not exposing large numbers of people. The gas is, however, highly toxic and easy to produce from commonly available materials—properties that could make it attractive for use in a terrorist attack. DHS/I&A and JRIC have no information that terrorists are planning an attack in the United States using hydrogen sulfide gas.
- Potential production of hydrogen sulfide gas may be identified by the collection of commonly used household items such as some paints, pesticides, toilet bowl cleaners, and disinfectants.

Hydrogen Sulfide at Incident Sites

When responding to incidents, especially possible suicides, first responders should be aware of the possibility of encountering hydrogen sulfide gas, a potentially lethal toxic industrial chemical.* DHS/I&A and the Los Angeles JRIC assess that an intentional release would most likely result from a suicide, but the chemical also could be used in a terrorist attack. DHS/I&A and the JRIC have no information that terrorists are planning attacks in the United States using hydrogen sulfide gas, although first responders should exercise caution if they suspect the presence of hydrogen sulfide.

Properties and Methods of Production

Hydrogen sulfide is a colorless, toxic, and flammable gas with a strong odor of rotten eggs at low concentrations. Its odor is not a reliable indicator of its presence, however, because high concentrations or continuous exposure deaden the sense of smell. It can be produced by mixing a sulfur source, such as certain paints and pesticides, with an acid, such as those found in toilet bowl cleaners and disinfectants (see Table 1). The extent of the hazard will depend on the concentration of the reactive sulfur and acid in the items used.

Table 1. (U) Examples of household items that can be used to produce hydrogen sulfide.

Acid Sources	Sulfur Sources
Lysol® Ready to Use Disinfectant (4–8 percent citric and hydroxyacetic acid)	Artist oil paints (0–15 percent zinc sulfide)
Lysol® Toilet Bowl Cleaner (9.5 percent HCl)	Dandruff shampoos (1.0 percent selenium sulfide)
Sno Bol® Toilet Cleaner (15 percent HCl)	Pesticides (5–30 percent calcium polysulfides)
The Works® Toilet Bowl Cleaner (15–25 percent HCl)	Spackling paste (1–2 percent zinc sulfide)
Blu-Lite® Germicidal Acid Bowl Cleaner (20.5 percent phosphoric acid)	Some latex paints (6.6 percent zinc sulfide)
Kaboom® Shower, Tub, and Tile Cleaner (5–7 percent urea-monohydrochloric acid)	Garden fungicides (5-90 percent sulfur)
Tile, stone cleaners (1-30 percent HCl)	

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Health Hazards

Effects of exposure to hydrogen sulfide include the following:

- **Low concentrations:** eye irritation, sore throat, cough.
- **Intermediate concentrations:** shortness of breath, headache, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, pulmonary edema.
- **High concentrations:** potentially fatal; exposure to concentrations at 800-1,000 parts per million or greater can result in immediate collapse with loss of breathing, even after a single breath.

Use in Suicides

Inhalation of hydrogen sulfide has become a popular means of committing suicide in Japan and could become more popular in the United States as publicity about these incidents spreads.

- In August 2008, law enforcement and fire units responded to a suicide involving hydrogen sulfide in Pasadena, California. The victim, found dead in his car, had mixed a fungicide and a toilet bowl cleaner in a plastic tray. First responders saw the tray with a “bright blue liquid” in the back seat of the vehicle. The man had placed a note on the car to warn first responders. Investigation indicated that he may have visited one or more of the numerous Japanese websites that provide information on how to commit suicide using hydrogen sulfide.
- In Japan, press reports indicated that during the first six months of 2008, more than 500 people had killed themselves by inhaling hydrogen sulfide produced by mixing commonly available chemicals. Many of these incidents occurred in vehicles, apartments, or houses.



(U) Firefighters respond to a suicide in Pasadena.

Potential Use by Terrorists

Terrorist training manuals have discussed using hydrogen sulfide gas in an attack. DHS/I&A and the JRIC assess that the chemical reactions described in the manuals are viable and would yield hydrogen sulfide, but no information indicates that a terrorist attack is imminent using this chemical.

- The “Mujahideen Poisons Handbook” describes producing hydrogen sulfide gas by reacting sodium sulfide and sulfuric acid.
- Another terrorist training manual proposes mixing hydrochloric acid and iron sulfide.

DHS/I&A and the JRIC assess that it would be difficult for terrorists to create fatal concentrations of hydrogen sulfide in large open areas because the gas would dissipate; however, terrorists could use it in enclosed spaces to cause disruption and panic, based on the circumstances of non-terrorist-related events.

- The discovery of the suicide victim in Pasadena led to the evacuation of several businesses in the immediate area and left bystanders stranded for up to five hours while responders assessed the scene.
- In one incident in Japan, 90 people in an apartment building reportedly were sickened when a teenage girl killed herself in the bathroom of her apartment by mixing household items that produced hydrogen sulfide.

Implications

Hydrogen sulfide is a dangerous, easily produced toxic industrial chemical that can cause health hazards at even low concentrations. If the presence of hydrogen sulfide is suspected at an incident site, responders should follow their agencies' HAZMAT protocols.

Source: DHS – Office of Intelligence and Analysis Bulletin, 26 September 2008

HOMEMADE EXPLOSIVE TRIACETONE TRIPEROXIDE CAN BE MISTAKEN FOR METHAMPHETAMINE: Triacetone Triperoxide (TATP) is a powerful, highly unstable homemade explosive that terrorist and extremist groups have used in bomb-making. Similarities in appearance and methods of production can cause first responders to mistake TATP for methamphetamine, placing anyone in the area in a potentially hazardous situation. TATP may explode if not handled carefully.

General Information on TATP

TATP Hazards:

- Extremely sensitive to impact, friction, static/sparks, and heat.
- May react violently to illegal-drug field testing if large amounts are tested at once.

Key Identifiers:

- Crystals or powder
- Colorless or white
- Fruity smell; old TATP smells like bad vinegar.
- May be stored in refrigerator or freezer.

Chemical Components:

- Acetone (nail polish remover, paint remover)
- Acid (sulfuric, nitric, hydrochloric)



Photo of Fine TATP



Photo of Crude TATP

- Hydrogen peroxide

Lab Equipment:

- Glassware
- Distillers
- Mixers
- Ice Bath
- Filters

Source: DHS & FBI Roll Call Release Bulletin, 26 March 2009

DOG TAG KNIFE: The Original Dog Tag Knife is designed and manufactured for last-ditch self-defense or survival circumstances. This knife is made of titanium alloy, strong and ultra-light, with a unique chisel grind edge, easy to sharpen and will only cut when pressure is applied. The Original Dog Tag Knife includes a silencing rubber enclosure around the blade for concealment, and is marketed as “easy to conceal” and “fully engravable to look like a true military dog tag.”

Analyst Comment: The Original Dog Tag Knife is advertised on the Internet, <http://originaldogtagknife.com> for \$19.95 plus shipping costs, and retails for \$24.95. It is titanium, which is non-magnetic and invisible to TSA magnetometers. The edge of the blade is coarse as supplied when purchased, but the blade can be sharpened to a fine edge as shown in the photograph to the right. The blade size is 2 inches long by 1 1/8 inches wide. The Dog Tag Knife was designed by a former U.S. Paratrooper and resembles the current issue G.I. dog tag very closely. It can be engraved, however, it is unknown if it can be stamped. With the green vinyl anti-rattle edging in place the sharpened edge is not visible and may be difficult to detect. Other items disguised as dog tags that law enforcement should be aware of as concealment methods include:



- Multi use utility tools
- Switch blade knives
- USB flash drives

Law enforcement officers, first responders and officials with the responsibility to search suspects are reminded to be vigilant; carefully scrutinize dog tags and other jewelry when conducting person or property searches.

Source: Arizona Counter-Terrorism Information Center, 26 March 2009

DELIVERY COMPANY TRACKING NOTIFICATION: Recently while working a case, the Town of Bedford PD obtained a subpoena for a package that was being delivered to a suspect's house through UPS. The subpoena was typical and had language in it stating not to make anyone aware of the subpoena, whether asked or not. The subpoena was served and police were waiting to make a controlled delivery of the package to the suspect's house. Before making the delivery, detectives went to the UPS website and ran the package's tracking number. On the website UPS had entered in the package's tracking window they had turned the package over to a Government agency. For this reason police did not attempt to make the delivery. Agencies that make controlled deliveries are asked to be aware of this situation and should double check the tracking page for whatever company they are dealing with prior to delivery.

Track Shipments

Track Packages & Freight Quantum View Flex Global View

Tracking Detail

[Printer Friendly](#) | [Help](#)

Your package has experienced an exception.

Tracking Number: 1Z 756 609 25 4563 770 8
Type: Package
Status: [Exception](#)
See description below
Shipped To: BEDFORD HILLS, NY, US
Shipped/Billed On: 02/04/2009
Service: NEXT DAY AIR
Weight: .30 Lb

Package Progress			
Location	Date	Local Time	Description
YORKTOWN HGTS, NY, US	02/06/2009	10:00 A.M.	SHIPMENT TRANSFERRED TO LOCAL GOVT AGENCY AND IS TEMPORARILY OUT OF UPS CONTROL

Source: Westchester County, NY Police Department - Crime Analysis Union Information Bulletin #103-2009, 13 February 2009

CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE

LIGHTER CONCEALMENT METHOD: TSA Screening Officers at the Tulsa International Airport discovered the following torch lighter, in a passenger's checked luggage. A USB key had been inserted into the bottom of the lighter. Examination of the key files revealed information on bomb making, suicide bombings, poisons and adult pornography. The passenger was detained and interviewed by the FBI upon his arrival in Denver, Colorado. A closer examination of the computer files showed that most of the information could be obtained from the internet. The files fit the profile of someone in the military that is attached to a bomb disposal unit. At this time the FBI has not advised of any updates in the investigation.



Source: Tulsa International Airport, 12 March 2009

NEW SOCIAL NETWORKING SITE - MOCOSPACE.COM: Law Enforcement has recently discovered a new social networking site called mocospace.com. **It is being used by gang members in larger cities.** Like various other Internet social networking sites such as myspace.com, bebo.com, and xanga.com, mocospace.com has the potential to be used by criminals to communicate.

Comment: Unlike these other Internet Social Networking sites, mocospace.com is de-signed for use over a cell phone. Users can find friends, send instant messages, chat, and send photos/videos through the site, via their cell phone. Law enforcement should be aware of this new mobile social network. The site can be accessed by going to the link www.mocospace.com.

Source: Newark NJ Police Department



COCAINE SOAKED INTO SHREDDED PACKING PAPER: Officers should be aware of a new concealment for cocaine using shredded paper. Cocaine is soaked into paper that is shredded and then used as packing paper in a parcel. The paper seems to be ordinary packing material when in actuality the contraband is cleverly disguised. This type of concealment was discovered on February 4, 2009, at the Foreign Mail Center in Miami, Florida. After a drug-detection canine alerted to a package originating in Bolivia, the box was opened and souvenir-type

items were found mixed with shredded paper. A piece of the shredded paper was tested and was positive for cocaine. Total weight of the package was 4.25 pounds (1.92 kilograms). Officers noticed that the package had similar handwriting on the outside of the package as was used in a previous seizure. The package was being sent from Bolivia to Gardena, California.

Comment: Using shredded paper soaked with cocaine is a unique concealment. Previously, other drugs have been used by concealing them in other materials such as cocaine in plastic glass, as published in EB06-31 on June 26, 2006. On February 9, 2009, just after the shredded paper seizure, a parcel having 620 grams concealed within the walls of a corrugated box was seized at the JFK mail facility in New York City, New York. A tan powdery substance was found concealed in the cardboard walls of the parcel and tested positive for heroin. The parcel originated in India.

Source: El Paso Intelligence Center Bulletin EB09-14

CONCEALMENT METHOD - ECSTASY CONCEALED IN CRUSHED POP CANS:

The Mason Detachment of the West Virginia State Police located in Point Pleasant, West Virginia recently arrested a Letart, West Virginia resident for possession of approximately 300 “hits” of Ecstasy. The 26 year old male consented to a vehicle search, which ultimately led to the drugs. The pills were artfully concealed in crushed Mountain Dew cans, which could be easily overlooked as routine trash. The subject reportedly travels from West Virginia to Columbus, Ohio via US Route 33 every Tuesday and Thursday to purchase Ecstasy. Each time, the pills are concealed in crushed soda cans which are strewn about the vehicle’s interior. The suspect advised that, in the past, he willingly consented to the search of his vehicle without concern, because officers



repeatedly overlooked the crushed cans as merely trash in the vehicle.

Source: West Virginia State Police, Mason Detachment; Ohio State Highway Patrol Intelligence Briefing, Volume 6 - Issue 2, 26 February 2009

MARIJUANA CONCEALED IN SPINACH CANS: On March 6, 2009, on Interstate 40, at the MTD Gallup Port of Entry near Gallup, New Mexico, MTD Officers seized **1,200 pounds of marijuana** co-mingled with a load of spinach. Only the top layers of cans were labeled. The labels had the words **PACIFIC GREEN SPINACH**. The cans containing the marijuana were not marked.



Source: Gulf Coast HIDTA Bulletin, 13 March 2009

CRIMINALS USE VIDEO GAMES TO COMMIT CRIMES: The world wide web is ubiquitous and fairly easy to monitor by LEOs. Only "amateur" criminals use websites for organizing their crimes. Criminals that understand how to use technology regardless of the type of device (computer, cell phone, Smartphone, game console), or software (web browser, p2p software, ftp client, irc client, newsreader) used, have been flying under the radar of local LEAs technology crimes units for years.



Thousands of crimes are committed daily using technology other than a typical computer and web browser. Game consoles have become the new technology of choice for sex offenders and predators. The Sony PS3, Microsoft XBox 360, and the Nintendo Wii, all are Internet enabled. These units have the ability to not only play games at home, but also play against other console owners via the Internet. These systems also allow one-to-one messaging (email) and chat (one-to-one or one-to-many) between console owners, including the sending of pictures and video via the console.

Game consoles are actually computers designed to perform a specific task very well. Play games. When they became Internet enabled a few years ago (easy to implement on the now ultra powerful game consoles), the criminal minded were among the first to see the benefit of using them for crime, the primary one of being able to avoid typical local law enforcement detection. How many of us have served a search warrant for computers and left behind the XBox, Playstation, or Wii because it was a game machine? How many sex offender probation orders prohibit the offender from having a "computer" but not a game console or a device like an iPhone or Blackberry because they are not thought of as a computer? How many local LEA computer forensic examiners have any experience in examining these devices?

The article on abcnews.com, published last Friday and linked below, is a good case study on what is really going on in the game console world. The same thing happens daily using portable, battery operated devices like an iPhone, Blackberry, netbook, Nintendo DS or Sony PSP. Most of us are just not aware of the scope of the criminal activity using "non-computers," or how to go about even working it as we don't think like and are not as techno-savvy, as a typical tween or teen. Scary, huh?

<http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/Story?id=7009977&page=1>

Source: Alachua County Sheriff's Office - Criminal Intelligence Unit, 16 March 2009

TRAIN-THE-TRAINER WORKSHOP IN SOUTHERN OKLAHOMA FOR MEMBERS OF VARIOUS MILITIA GROUPS: Between 8 January 2009 and 10 January 2009, members of various militia groups participated in a train-the-trainer workshop on a farm belonging to USPER 1 in southern Oklahoma. The workshop was to prepare participants to train others in armed conflict with government troops and for society chaos (NFI). Some attendees claimed to have prior military service. Topics of the workshop included close quarters combat, room-entry tactics, marksmanship, chemical and biological weapons, emergency medicine, intelligence gathering, militia group formation and training, land navigation, night vision, radio communication, and weapons caching. Stressed concepts included the leaving explosive booby traps to counter room-entry tactics, the importance of a .308 caliber rifle due to its ability to

penetrate body armor, the advantages of improvised explosive devices (IED's) over armed stand-offs, and the 'bottlenecking' of opposing troops to maximize fire on the enemy (NFI). There was instruction in response techniques for nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, including the proper use and care of a gas mask, and several mock NBC attacks occurred spontaneously throughout the workshop.

Source: FBI IIR 4 201 4221 09

2-KILOS OF HERION SEZIED IN ATHLETIC SHOES: On 3-7-2009 at 1325 hrs. an Ohio State Highway Patrol K-9 Trooper stopped a rented 2009 Toyota Rav 4, east bound on IS-70 at MP 8 for a speed violation of 74 mph in a 65 mph zone. The male driver was requested to exit his vehicle. As he did so, the suspect kept his back to the Trooper and slowly removed his shoes. Other furtive movements by the suspect led the Trooper to perform a "Terry Frisk". During the frisk, two hard packages of suspected contraband were felt on the drivers waistband being held in place by a neoprene wrap (the packages were later found to contain White Herion). The driver was secured and placed in the cruiser. When a backup officer arrived, the passenger was removed from the vehicle. The passenger was found to have removed his shoe insoles and replaced them with inch thick insoles made of compressed Heroin. The shoes the driver took off also contained compressed Heroin insoles. The total weight of the Heroin was approximately 2 Kilograms, with an estimated street value of \$800,000. The suspects refused to participate in a controlled delivery. The suspects were enroute from San Diego, CA to Manhattan, NY. and were driving a rented vehicle from an Alamo Rental Agency located at the San Diego Airport facility.



Spiderman Marking on Package	Package Located Under the Insoles	Package Appx. 1" Thick	Suspect Vehicle: 2008 Toyota Highlander (Rental -Alamo San Diego Airport)
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Source: Ohio State Highway Patrol – Office of Investigative Services: Criminal Intelligence Unit Bulletin # 2009-0283



NEW YORK CBP OFFICERS DISCOVER HYDROPONIC MARIJUANA IN GAS TANK: U.S. Customs and Border Protection field operations announced the seizure of 18 pounds of hydroponic marijuana and the arrest of a Canadian citizen in the smuggling attempt. On March 13, CBP officers encountered Jonathan Flores-Chirinos, a 33-year-old Honduran-born Canadian citizen from Montreal, Quebec, as he applied for admission into the United States at

the Champlain port of entry. Flores-Chirinos presented a Canadian passport as proof of citizenship and identity and advised CBP officers that he was en route to visit family in Brooklyn, N.Y., for one week. At the completion of the primary inspection, Flores-Chirinos was referred to CBP secondary for an enforcement exam and verification of his immigration status. During the course of the secondary inspection of the vehicle, CBP officers discovered that the gas tank sending unit located under the rear seat had been tampered with. CBP officers attempted to inspect the gas tank using a fiber-optic scope, but were unable to do so, as there appeared to be a foreign object blocking the access to the tank. CBP officers then removed the sending unit and discovered what appeared to be vacuum-sealed bags in the gas tank. CBP officers retrieved 33 bags that later field tested positive for marijuana.

Source: U.S. Customs and Border Protection

ISLAMBERG - TOWN IN N.Y. FOUNDED BY ALLEGED TERRORIST:

If you didn't know where to look, you'd probably never find Islamberg, a private Muslim community in the woods of the western Catskills, 150 miles northwest of New York City. Islamberg was founded in 1980 by Sheikh Syed Mubarik Ali Shah Gilani, a Pakistani cleric who purchased a 70-acre plot and invited followers, mostly Muslim converts living in New York City, to settle there. The town has its own mosque, grocery store and schoolhouse. It also reportedly has a firing range where residents take regular target practice. Gilani established similar rural enclaves across the country — at least six, including the Red House community in southern Virginia — though some believe there are dozens of them, all operating under the umbrella of the “Muslims of the Americas” group founded by Gilani. Federal authorities say Gilani was also one of the founders of Jamaat al-Fuqra, a terrorist organization believed responsible for dozens of bombings and murders across the U.S. and abroad. The group was linked to the planning of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, and 10 years earlier a member was arrested and later convicted for bombing a hotel in Portland, Ore. View full article: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,5 10218,00.html>



Source: National Terror Alert Response Center

VUMBER NUMBERS: Recently, it came to the attention of the Appalachia HIDTA Intelligence Support Center that a new telephone service would be of interest to law enforcement. A website with address www.vumber.com provides “virtual phone numbers”. Virtual phone numbers are additional telephone numbers that can be forwarded to any phone you choose for a fee of \$9.95 per month plus \$3.95 per month for additional phone numbers.

Here’s how it works:



This service could provide subjects of investigations with multiple numbers associated with the same cellular telephone. Vumber provided the Appalachia HIDTA ISC with information regarding the appearance of the vumber number in phone records. If a person has a vumber number and it is forwarded to their cell phone the resulting data would be as follows:

- Incoming calls from someone (Person A) dialing the “vumber” number (Person B) would show up as an incoming call from the originating phone (Person A).



- The return call from Person B to Person A would show up as an outgoing call to Person B's vumber number. Person B calls the vumber number and then enters the number of the person he is calling (Person A).



- This will use minutes on the cell phone receiving the vumber calls.

If you see a vumber number dialed on a subject's tolls there are two possibilities: he is the vumber customer or he is dialing a vumber number. Services include voice mail, free number changes (3 times for free and \$1.95 per phone change after that). The vumber number customer can answer calls, send them to Vumber voicemail, give a busy signal, tell them the

number is out of service or play them a message created by the vumber customer. Account management is on-line and you can set up speed dial contacts, block individual callers and view your call history. This service is advertised as flexible, privacy-protected, portable, and disposable numbers.

Here are the features as listed on the Vumber Number website:



Call Control.

With Vumber, you control phone calls - how you want to be accessed by people calling your Vumber, if at all. You can: a) answer; b) send them to VumberMail; c) give them a busy signal, or d) send them a custom message saying the number is no longer in service. If you don't like those choices, you can customize a message that you want to send. Having a virtual phone number means you are in full control of your call privacy. You control calls, you control privacy.



Caller ID - know when someone is calling your Vumber.

On incoming calls, you can decide to see the incoming caller ID of the person calling or your Vumber, letting you know that the person calling is someone to whom you gave your Vumber. The choice is yours based on how you use your Vumber. When you make a call, the person you call will see your Vumber as the caller ID. Vumber always protects your privacy.



VumberMail.

With Vumber, you get a separate voice mail box for **each** of your Vumbers . Vumber makes managing your messages easy with e-mail notification. Also, don't worry about messages that come from your Vumber reaching your regular voice mail - it is separate and secure.



Virtual Presence.

With Vumber, you select the area code you want. Project yourself anywhere you want to be, not necessarily where you are.

Comment: Vumber.com subpoena contact info: Cliff Wener, President, Vumber, 27 W 20 St New York, NY 10011, 212-488-1610, cliff.wener@vumber.com

Source: Appalachia HIDTA Intelligence Bulletin

CLOTHING CONCEALMENT: On March 12, 2009, NYPD - 115 Precinct, Street Narcotics Enforcement Unit, recovered six (6) grams of crack cocaine from a homemade pocket in a perpetrator's pants. The perpetrator cut a hole in the first layer of the pocket's extra fabric, thus creating a new pocket on the inside of the pants. Officers should be aware that this is a common concealment method utilized on the street.



Source: NYPD Intelligence Operations and Analysis Section Bulletin, 17 March 2009

INTERNET UNIFYING OTHERWISE ISOLATED WHITE SUPREMACIST EXTREMISTS: FBI analysis indicates white supremacist extremist Internet resources, including blogs and forums, can provide otherwise isolated sympathizers with validation and support, bolster their extremist sentiments, and give them perceptions of identification and association with established white supremacy extremist groups. Several white supremacists that appear to have interacted with others primarily online have in the past six months planned or committed crimes possibly based on extremist agendas encountered in online communities. A US person arrested on 22 January 2009 in Mobile, Alabama on local charges of racist vandalism and possession of a destructive device, participated in extremist message boards and online forums. The individual had no known substantive personal contact with any white supremacist extremist group but, according to UK law enforcement reporting, claimed membership in one and was in communication with a prominent UK right wing activist. Two white supremacist extremists arrested in Memphis, Tennessee on 22 October 2008 for weapons violations and threats, lived in separate states and met through an online white supremacy forum. The two US persons communicated online with each other and members of white

supremacist groups before meeting to attempt mass murder culminating in the assassination of then-Presidential candidate Barack Obama.

FBI Analyst Comment: The FBI assesses the white supremacist extremist presence on the Internet will continue to develop and is expanding to include participation in niche and mainstream social networking sites. The growing opportunity for virtual interaction among those who share white supremacist ideology may encourage criminal acts intended to further the agendas of white supremacist extremist groups.

Source: FBIHQ – Domestic Terrorism Strategic Operations Section via FBI Weekly Intelligence Report

“SPY” WATCH VIDEO RECORDING DEVICE: This watch is available via several websites and is an updated version of the audio recording watch, of similar style, that has been available for several years. The watch is fashioned as a standard men’s dress watch, but contains 8 GB of memory, and is equipped with a microphone and a pinhole camera lens. The watch is capable of recording audio and video in AVI format, at a resolution of 352x288 at 15 frames per second. The image below (right) is an example of the size of the video frame taken by this device. The watch can be identified through the slightly thicker body than a standard wristwatch. The device also doubles as an 8 GB storage device, capable of storing any type of data, which could make it a less obvious storage method, compared to a camera flash card (see CISO 012-09), for organized crime/terrorist members. Unlike other USB memory watches already identified by police, this one does not have an integrated USB connector. However, this watch should not be discounted as a surveillance device despite the lack of such a USB plug.



Source: Ontario Provincial Operations Intelligence Bureau – Intelligence Bulletin, March 2009



CBP OFFICERS ‘HANG-UP’ MORE THAN 4 POUNDS OF HEROIN AT JFK:

On 22 March 2009, U.S. Customs and Border Protection at JFK International Airport discovered more than 4.5 pounds of heroin concealed in wooden hangers. A 26-year-old permanent resident from Michigan was arrested at JFK International Airport in connection with the smuggling attempt. On Sunday morning, CBP officers selected the passenger for a routine baggage inspection when he arrived on a flight from

Dominican Republic. The passenger presented one checked bag for inspection. Upon examination of the bag, CBP officers discovered six wooden hangers that were unusually heavy. A probe of the hangers revealed a brown powdery substance which field tested positive for heroin. More than four and a half pounds of heroin with a street value of almost a \$350,000 was seized and turned over to Immigration and Customs Enforcement for further investigation. The case is being prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney’s Office in the Eastern District of New York. The passenger was arraigned at U.S. District Court in Brooklyn. If convicted, the suspect faces a maximum of 10 years in prison and possible loss of his permanent residence status in the United States. In mid-December, CBP officers at JFK arrested a 29-year-old female U.S. citizen for attempting to import nearly eight pounds of cocaine concealed in six hangers and one tie rack from the Dominican Republic. Since the fiscal year began in October 2008, CBP officers at the JFK have made a total of 53 seizures totaling nearly 172 pounds of heroin from passengers arriving from abroad. From October 2007 through September 2008, CBP officers seized just over 300 pounds of heroin from arriving passengers. “Our highly skilled CBP officers are committed to interdicting narcotics at our ports of entry and are extremely adept at identifying these types of deep concealment methods,” said the director of field operations for CBP in New York.

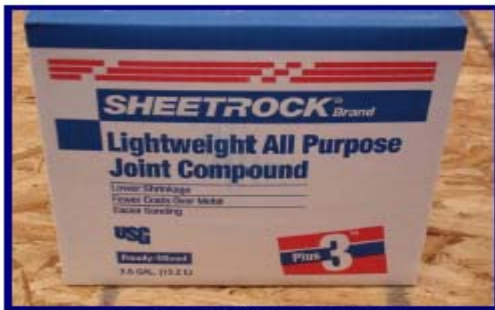
Source: U.S. Customs and Border Protection

COCAINE CONCEALED IN SHEETROCK® JOINT COMPOUND: EPIC has recently received information regarding a drug transportation organization that smuggles cocaine inside boxes of "Sheetrock®" brand all-purpose joint compound.* The transportation organization is based in Midland and Odessa, Texas, and they smuggle cocaine from Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico, to Odessa, and from Odessa, to unidentified locations in the Midwestern United States. This organization reportedly uses the ready-mixed wet plaster/putty form of the compound, which is packaged in 3.5 gallon quantities in plastic bags inside boxes. (The ready-mixed/wet compound is also available in other quantities contained in plastic buckets.) The traffickers open the boxes and bags, immerse two 1-kilogram packages of cocaine inside the wet compound, and reseal the bags and boxes as if they had been sealed at the factory. Intelligence indicates that this organization currently uses small (short-distance) delivery trucks to transport

cocaine concealed in this manner. It is currently unknown if this organization utilizes this concealment method to smuggle the cocaine into the United States from Mexico, or only uses it for drug transportation within the United States.

Comment: *"Sheetrock®" all-purpose joint compound is used in the home construction / improvement industry to cover the edges, corners, and seams of sheetrock walls. The compound is available ready-mixed as a wet plaster/putty-like material or in a dry powder form that must be mixed with water. Open-source information indicates that Sheetrock® joint compound is manufactured by the U.S. Gypsum Company at facilities in the United States and at Chautlancingo, Puebla, Mexico. Further information on the company and its products can be viewed on the Internet at www.usg.com.

(Analyst note: The following photographs are provided as examples only, and were not derived from a seizure incident.)



(photo: DEA Midland, TX, RO)



(photo: DEA Midland, TX, RO)



(photo: DEA Midland, TX, RO)



(photo: DEA Midland, TX, RO)



(photo: DEA Midland, TX, RO)



(photo: DEA Midland, TX, RO)

Source: El Paso Intelligence Center Tactical Bulletins Team Bulletin # EB09-17, 13 March 2009

SECRET SPY LENS: With large lens barrels, dSLR optics look professional and intimidating. This is why it can be difficult to take candid street shots with them. But Photojojo has a solution--the Super-Secret Spy Lens. This attachment fits onto most lenses via adapters, and the opening along the side shows a precision mirror which reflects light into the optics. The swivel barrel lets shutterbugs take discreet shots in any direction without having to point the lens at the subject.



[Photojojo's Web site](#) lists the price for the Super-Secret Spy Lens from US\$50 to US\$85, depending on which combination of adapters you require.

Source: Florida Intelligence Unit eINTEL, 30 March 2009

ITEMS of INTEREST

TERRORIST SCREENING CENTER (TSC) INFORMATION SHARING INITIATIVES

National Fusion Center Conference Award Praises Support for Counterterrorism Effort: The TSC initiatives recognized by the “We Hear You” award include:



- **Real-Time Notification Of Encounters With Watch-Listed Individuals.** TSC notifies fusion centers by telephone as soon as the TSC Call Center has confirmed an encounter with a known or suspected terrorist by a state, county, or municipal law enforcement agency in their geographic jurisdiction.
- **Daily Reports About Encounters Across The Country.** TSC posts unclassified versions of its daily report of encounters with known or suspected terrorists across the country on law enforcement networks, providing greater visibility on terrorist encounters than ever before.
- **Tailored Analytical Products.** TSC provides special analysis reports on encounters with known or suspected terrorists—including analysis of possible trends—to state and local law enforcement through fusion centers.

Comment: The U.S. Terrorist Screening Center (TSC), established December 2003 by Homeland Security Presidential Directive-6, serves as the U.S. Government’s consolidation point for known and suspected terrorist watch-list information, both foreign and domestic. The consolidated watch-list contains records that are updated daily and shared with federal, state, local, territorial, tribal law enforcement and intelligence community agencies as well as international partners to ensure that individuals with links to terrorism are appropriately screened. The TSC is a multi-agency organization administered by the National Security Branch of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Source: <http://www.fbi.gov/pressrel/pressrel09/tsc031009.htm>



WORLDWIDE: INTERNET POSTING ON GAS-BASED VBIED ATTRACTS MEDIA ATTENTION: A U.S.-based media service recently reported that a member of a militant Islamist Internet forum using the name Abul Baraa al-Masri posted information about an easy and cheap alternative to the usual car bomb commonly used by militants in Afghanistan and other places. Al-Masri, who claims to be very active in the military sections of the Internet forum, explained that the bomb consists of

a well-sealed tanker to be filled with a mix of 25 percent gas and 75 percent oxygen, and a detonator. The information appears to have been originally posted on the Shumukh Al-Islam forum and consisted of the above image. Reportedly, al-Masri usually posts advice on explosives issues, but only provides basic instructions. The bottom section of the image was annotated as follows: “common gas is placed first, then oxygen on top of it, and as the volume of the tank is increased, so is the destructive potential [of the VBIED].”

TSA Office of Intelligence Comment: The information provided on this site is more advanced and detailed than information posted in other jihadist forums in the past. The fact that al-Masri states the need for a proper fuel-air mixture indicates some degree of technical skill and possibly increases the chances for a successful detonation. While al-Masri has gone into some detail in other areas, he does not specify a method for filling up the tanks or what type of electronic detonator would be effective in initiating the gas mixture. However, many other factors in the design would impact whether a low order detonation or high order detonation would result. Extremist tradecraft may improve the device design to overcome technical shortcomings through trial and error and increase the potential capability of this attack method.

Source: NYPD Jihadist World Weekly, 11-18 February 2009 through the Transportation Security Administration Office of Intelligence Bulletin, 17 March 2009

UNDERCOVER TESTS REVEAL SIGNIFICANT VULNERABILITIES IN STATE’S PASSPORT ISSUANCE PROCESS:

GAO’s investigation shows that terrorists or criminals could steal an American citizen’s identity, use basic counterfeiting skills to create fraudulent documentation for that identity, and obtain a genuine U.S. passport from State. GAO conducted four tests simulating this approach and was successful in obtaining a genuine U.S. passport in each case. In the most egregious case, an undercover GAO investigator obtained a passport using counterfeit documents and the Social Security Number (SSN) of a man who died in 1965. In another case, the investigator obtained a passport using counterfeit documents and the genuine SSN of a fictitious 5-year-old child GAO created for a previous investigation—even though the investigator’s counterfeit documents and application indicated he was 53 years old. All four passports were issued to the same GAO investigator, under four



different names. In all four tests, GAO used counterfeit and/or fraudulently obtained documents. State and USPS employees did not identify GAO's documents as counterfeit. GAO's investigator later purchased an airline ticket under the name used on one of the four fraudulently obtained U.S. passports, and then used that passport as proof of identity to check in to his flight, get a boarding pass, and pass through the security checkpoint at a major metropolitan-area airport. At a briefing on the results of GAO's investigation, State officials agreed with GAO that the investigation exposes a major vulnerability in State's passport issuance process. According to State officials, State's fraud detection efforts are hampered by limitations to its information sharing and data access with other federal and state agencies. After GAO's briefing, State officials notified GAO that they identified and revoked GAO's four fraudulently obtained U.S. passports, and were studying the matter to determine the appropriate steps for improving State's passport issuance process.

Table 1: Counterfeit or Fraudulently Obtained Documents Used to Obtain Genuine U.S. Passports

Test number	Month of application	Documents submitted as part of passport application process	Number of days between application and issuance
1	July 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counterfeit West Virginia driver's license • Counterfeit New York birth certificate • Passport application form 	8 days
2	August 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genuine District of Columbia identification card obtained with fraudulent documentation • Counterfeit New York birth certificate • Passport application form 	Same day (passport issued the date of application)
3	October 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counterfeit West Virginia driver's license • Counterfeit New York birth certificate • Passport application form containing SSN of a fictitious 5-year-old child, which we obtained on a previous investigation 	7 days
4	December 2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counterfeit Florida driver's license • Counterfeit New York birth certificate • Passport application form containing SSN of a deceased individual 	4 days

Comment: The fastest and easiest way to obtain copies of GAO documents at no cost is through GAO's Web site (www.gao.gov). Each weekday afternoon, GAO posts on its Web site newly released reports, testimony, and correspondence. To have GAO e-mail you a list of newly posted products, go to www.gao.gov and select "E-mail Updates."

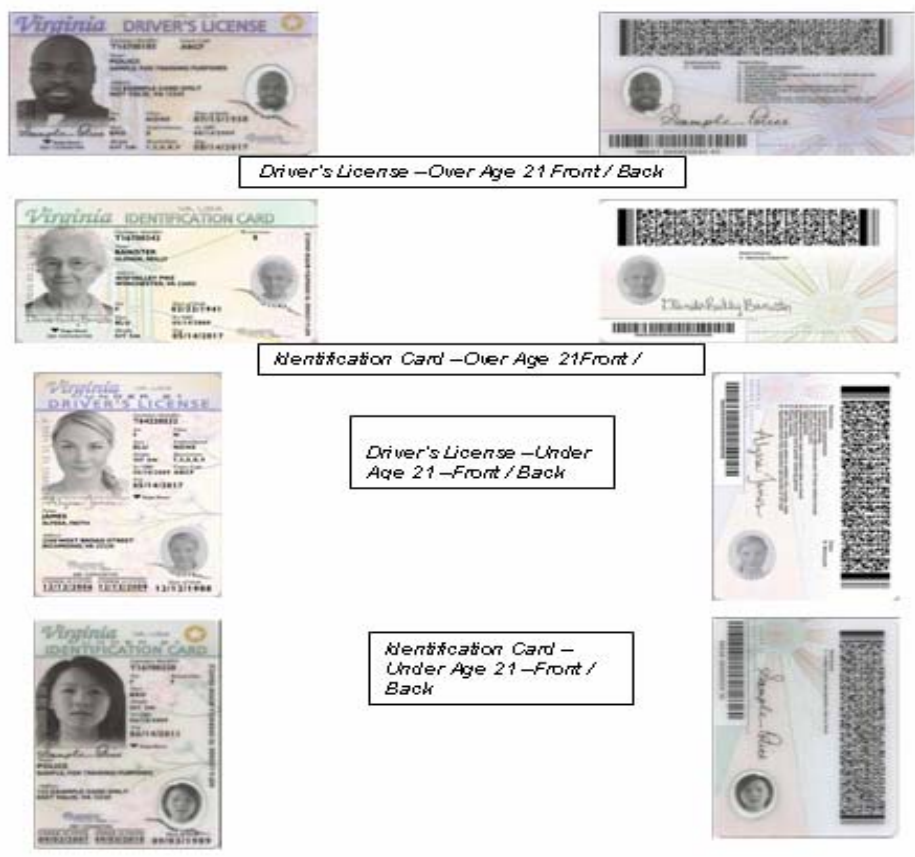
Source: MTA – NY Police Department, Daily Intelligence Briefing, 19 March 2009

- 2. Different print processes - several different print processes can be discerned on the reverse of the card.
- 3. Ultraviolet features - A ghost image of the holder and the SAAQ symbols become visible when the card is placed under an ultraviolet light.
- 4. Retroreflective laminate - By using a retroreflective viewer, the repeated fleur de lis and the word QUÉBEC becomes visible.

Source: Canada Border Services Agency-March 19, 2009

NEW VIRGINIA DRIVERS LICENSES: Beginning in March 2009, the Virginia DMV will begin issuing new Driver's Licenses and Identification Cards. They incorporate numerous security features that will bring Virginia into compliance with the Federal "Real ID" program.

We are preparing training on the new documents, and will provide a full explanation and description of the security features during the training. The new cards are significantly different from the previous versions, and we wanted to make you aware of what the new cards look like in the event someone produces one as identification.





DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT DROPPING POLICE CODE FOR

PLAIN ENGLISH: The Dallas Police Department is moving to a new plain-language system that's supposed to make communications more universal and less complicated. No more of those distinctive radio codes or signals. The department says it's following a nationwide trend, but some call it the end of an era. Others say the switch is no big deal. Many Dallas police dispatches already include plain language because it's simple. The switch became more prevalent after Sept. 11, 2001. During the terrorist attacks,

different agencies had problems communicating because they used different codes or their signals had varying meanings. Federal officials require that plain language be used during major disasters and exercises that involve several agencies or jurisdictions, according to a 2006 government alert. "There simply is little or no room for misunderstanding in an emergency situation," the alert stated. In a crisis, the codes tend to go out the window, Ebsen said. "Officers who have been there a while learn pretty quickly that if something big is going on, just talk plainly to say what's going on," he said. As hard as agencies try to scrub out codes and signals, it will be difficult to extinguish something that's been ingrained for decades in police forces.

Comment: According to the FEMA website, the National Incident Management System is purposely designed to utilize "plain language" over 10-codes to minimize misunderstanding between different agencies during a crisis. According to FEMA: "When engaged in a multiagency / multijurisdictional incident using ICS, plain language is required. The value of using 10-codes for simplicity and speed is lost when members of the response team are unaware of their meanings, as may occur in a multiagency / multijurisdiction response event. As 10-codes used in one jurisdiction or agencies are not the same as those used in another, it is important that responders and incident managers use common terminology to prevent misunderstanding in an emergency situation. While plain language is not required for internal operations, it is encouraged over 10-codes to promote familiarity within operational procedures used in emergencies."

For additional information refer to the following link: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/IncidentCommandSystem.shtm>

Source: South Carolina Information & Intelligence Center, Daily Information Bulletin # 051-09 / <http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/dn/latestnews/stories/032309dnmetradiocodes.3d76b7a.html?nTar=OPUR>



UNITED STATES SENDING 500 AGENTS TO FIGHT CARTELS ON BORDER: Hundreds of federal agents, along with high-tech surveillance gear and drug-sniffing dogs, are headed to the Southwest to help Mexico fight drug cartels and keep violence from spilling across the U.S.-Mexico border, Obama administration officials said Tuesday. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said officials were still considering

whether to deploy the National Guard to the Arizona and Texas borders with Mexico, which the governors had requested. Among the moves the government is making:

- Sending about 350 additional personnel from the Homeland Security Department for a host of border-related work, including doubling the border enforcement security teams that combine local, state and federal officers.
- Adding 16 new Drug Enforcement Administration positions in the southwestern region. DEA currently has more than 1,000 agents working in the region.
- Sending 100 more people from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to the border in the next 45 days.
- Boosting the FBI's intelligence and analysis work on Mexican drug cartel crime.
- Increasing the inspection of rail cargo heading from the U.S. into Mexico and putting X-ray units in place to try to detect weapons being smuggled into Mexico.

Napolitano said her department has already seen success with stepped-up efforts.

Source:

https://www.leo.gov/http://leowcs.leopriv.gov/rollcall/newsbriefs/around_the_nation/2009/03.shtml?20090326_37.inc

TERRORIST IDENTITIES DATAMART ENVIRONMENT (TIDE)

What Is TIDE?

The Terrorist Identities Datamart Environment (TIDE) is the US Government's (USG) central repository of information on international terrorist identities as established by the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004. TIDE supports the USG's various terrorist screening systems or "watchlists" and the US Intelligence Community's overall counterterrorism mission. The Terrorist Identities Group (TIG), located in NCTC's Information Sharing & Knowledge Development Directorate (ISKD), is responsible for building and maintaining TIDE.

The TIDE database includes, to the extent permitted by law, all information the U.S. government possesses related to the identities of individuals known or appropriately suspected

to be or have been involved in activities constituting, in preparation for, in aid of, or related to terrorism, with the exception of Purely Domestic Terrorism information.

What Types Of Conduct Warrant Inclusion In TIDE?

A non-exclusive list of types of conduct that will warrant both entry into TIDE and terrorist screening nomination includes persons who:

- Commit international terrorist activity
- Prepare or plan international terrorist activity;
- Gather information on potential targets for international terrorist activity;
- Solicit funds or other things of value for international terrorist activity or a terrorist organization;
- Solicit membership in an international terrorist organization;
- Provide material support, i.e. safe house, transportation, communications, funds, transfer of funds or other material financial benefit, false documentation or identification, weapons, explosives, or training;
- Are members of or represent a foreign terrorist organization.

Federal agencies nominate individuals for inclusion in TIDE based on evaluations of intelligence and law enforcement terrorism information.

How Is Information From TIDE Used For Watchlists?

Each day analysts create and enhance TIDE records based on their review of nominations received. Every evening, TIDE analysts export a sensitive but unclassified subset of the data containing the terrorist identifiers to the FBI's Terrorist Screening Center (TSC) for use in the USG's consolidated watchlist. This consolidated watchlist, which is a critical tool for homeland security, supports screening processes to detect and interdict known and suspected terrorists at home and abroad - for example, the Transportation Security Administration's "No Fly" list and the Department of State's visa database, among others.

For more information see www.fbi.gov/terrorinfo/counterterrorism/tsc.htm.

How Many Names Are In TIDE?

As of January 2009, TIDE contained more than 564,000 names, but only about 500,000 separate "identities" because of the use of aliases and name variants. U.S. Persons (including both citizens and legal permanent residents) make up less than five percent of the listings.

Why Are People Without Terrorist Ties Sometimes Delayed When Traveling?

Both TIDE and many of the end user screening systems are names based, which means that people with names similar to those in the database may be stopped for additional screening by TSA or at a port of entry. The Department of Homeland Security (DHA) Traveler Redress Inquiry Program (DHS Trip) was launched in February 2007. Travelers can use this program to request resolution of possible watchlist misidentification issues with any of the component agencies at: <http://www.dhs.gov/trip>.

Are Names Ever Removed From TIDE?

Yes. In 2008 more than 27,000 names were removed from TIDE when it was determined that they no longer met the criteria for inclusion.

Source: National Counterterrorism Center

IMPLICATIONS OF CLOSING GUANTANAMO

Information:

Since 2002, members of al-Qa'ida, the Taliban, and other terrorist suspects captured by the United States or its allies have been held at the US Naval Station at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Over 700 detainees have been held at Guantanamo since the start of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan in October 2001; approximately 240 detainees remain at the base after several years of prisoner releases and repatriations. In September 2006, then- President Bush announced the transfer of 14 "high-value detainees" to Guantanamo from prison sites operated by the CIA. Among these high value detainees were alleged 9/11 facilitators Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and Ramzi bin al-Shibh, along with several other senior al-Qa'ida operatives.



In the early days of his presidential campaign, then-Candidate Obama pledged to close the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay and resolve the legal status of the remaining detainees. On January 22, 2009, President Obama issued an Executive Order mandating the closure of the facility "as soon as practicable, and no later than one year from the date of this order. This Executive Order was followed by a second that established a Special Task Force on Detainee Disposition, co-chaired by the Attorney General and the Secretary of Defense, "to identify

lawful options for the disposition of individuals captured or apprehended in connection with armed conflicts and counterterrorism operations. To date, the detention camp at Guantanamo Bay remains operational while the Task Force evaluates its options regarding the remaining detainees. Regardless of the outcome, the closure of Guantanamo Bay has significant implications for worldwide counterterrorism efforts and homeland security.

Global Implications:

The closure of the Guantanamo Bay detention facility is essentially a balancing act between the potential goodwill created by its closure and the potential for dangerous recidivism inherent in its detainees. Guantanamo is a public relations burden to the US on two counts. First, US allies have been very vocal in their disapproval of the indefinite detention of prisoners at Guantanamo, irrespective of their own countries' historical records and legal standards regarding similar detentions. However, the US requires the support and cooperation of its allies if worldwide counterterrorism efforts are to succeed. Closure of the Guantanamo facility and resolution of the legal status for remaining detainees would likely assuage the concerns of these allies. Second, and perhaps more importantly, continued operation of the Guantanamo Bay detention camp feeds the perception in the Islamic world of the United States as an oppressor of Muslims. Islamic extremist groups, including al-Qa'ida, exploit this perception to increase recruiting, fundraising, and popular support. Regrettably, al-Qa'ida and likeminded groups will be able to craft a reasonably appealing anti-American narrative regardless of the ultimate fate of the Guantanamo Bay detention facility. That said, decreasing anti-American sentiment in the wider Islamic world is a worthy goal, particularly to the extent that it may be achieved without compromising national security.

But to what extent does the closure of Guantanamo pose a significant security threat? It is fair to assume that some, if not many, of the remaining detainees are well-trained, combat-experienced militants. Even leaving aside the high-value detainees, who are suspected of direct involvement in successful attacks against the US or its interests abroad, approximately 200 militants remain in detention at Guantanamo.

Many of these will be repatriated, to be imprisoned or released at the discretion of their home countries. Detainees who remain in US custody will likely face civilian federal trials or military tribunals, whose outcomes are difficult to predict. Though it is unlikely that any of the high-value detainees will be released, recidivism rates from the general population of former Guantanamo detainees suggest that at least some of the remaining prisoners might return to terrorist activities if given the opportunity. Details are unavailable, but the Defense Department currently estimates a 12 percent recidivism rate for former detainees.⁶ Based on anecdotal evidence, some former Guantanamo residents have occupied senior positions in terrorist organizations since their release. Open source reporting indicates that the current deputy-chief of al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula—formed by the merger of al-Qa'ida in Saudi Arabia and

al-Qa'ida in Yemen— was held at Guantanamo Bay until 2007. And the current Taliban operations chief in Helmand, Afghanistan was released into Afghan custody in 2007, after six years at Guantanamo. Clearly, the presence of former detainees at high levels of al-Qa'ida, its affiliates, and other terrorist organizations is an unwelcome development that certainly threatens US interests abroad, with potential implications for homeland security.

The ultimate outcome of this balancing act between encouraging international goodwill and minimizing national security threats will remain difficult to assess long after Guantanamo closes. The global implications of its closure are likely to be mixed: goodwill towards the United States will likely increase as a result, but potentially so will terrorist activities by former detainees. Thus, the closure of the Guantanamo Bay detention facility remains an imperfect solution to a complex problem.

Furthermore, Attorney General Eric Holder recently suggested that some Guantanamo detainees might be released and resettled in the United States. Seventeen Uighur separatists, Muslims from the Chinese province of Xinjiang who were captured in 2001 in Afghanistan and Pakistan, have been cleared for release from Guantanamo. In a media interview, Holder acknowledged that the resettlement of the remaining Uighur detainees in the United States was a “possibility,” perhaps as a concession to European countries being asked to accept former Guantanamo detainees for resettlement. Nonetheless, it will be politically difficult for the Obama administration to resettle Guantanamo detainees in the United States. Government officials from Kansas and Colorado have already expressed their concern about hosting *imprisoned* former detainees at Fort Leavenworth and the maximum security facility at Florence Federal Correctional Complex, respectively. Regardless of whether the Uighur separatists pose any direct threat to the United States, the Justice Department will face an uphill battle in trying to place former Guantanamo detainees into communities in the United States.

Source: New York State Office of Homeland Security Intelligence Division

WRTAC Customer Satisfaction Survey

Return to: Washington Regional Threat Analysis Center
 Washington, D.C.
 202-563-2768 (Fax)

Dear Customer,
 Please take a moment to complete this survey and help evaluate the quality and value of WRTAC products. Your response will help us serve you more effectively and efficiently in the future. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Instructions: Circle the appropriate response according to the following scale.

- 1 Strongly Disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 No Opinion
- 4 Agree
- 5 Strongly Agree

N/A Not Applicable

Product Title/Date: _____

Customer: _____

Quality:						
1	2	3	4	5	N/A	This product was delivered in a timely manner.
1	2	3	4	5	N/A	This product was relevant to your duties and needs.
1	2	3	4	5	N/A	This product was clear and easy to comprehend.
1	2	3	4	5	N/A	This product resulted in a change in investigative or intelligence priorities.
1	2	3	4	5	N/A	This product resulted in more informed decisions concerning officers' defensive posture and vigilance.
1	2	3	4	5	N/A	This product identified new information on pending matters or offered insights that could change a working premise.