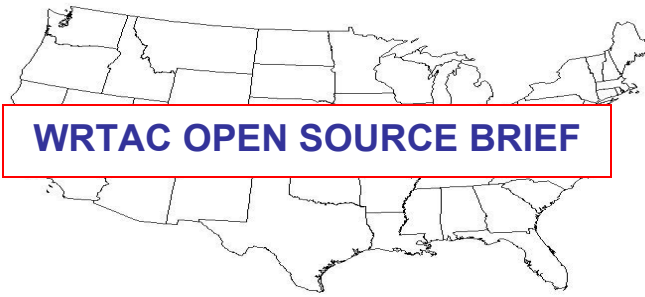


Washington Regional
Threat and Analysis Center



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Scope: Provide the private sector, our partner agencies, and local jurisdictions with current open source information relating to terrorism, homeland security, critical incident response and public safety.
Re-distribution is encouraged.

March 18, 2011
 2011-081

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Feds Deploy more Radiation Monitors in Western US

More radiation monitors are being deployed in the western United States and Pacific territories, as officials seek to mollify public concern over exposure from damaged nuclear plants in Japan, federal environmental regulators said. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency already monitors radiation throughout the area as part of its RadNet system, which measures levels in air, drinking water, milk and rain. The additional monitors are being deployed in response to the ongoing nuclear crisis in Japan, where emergency workers are attempting to cool overheated reactors damaged by last week's magnitude-9.0 earthquake and tsunami. Officials with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said they do not expect harmful radiation levels to reach the U.S. from Japan.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110316/ap_on_re_us/us_west_coast_radiation_monitors



DHS Secretary Reiterates Support for Fusion Centers

Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano today traveled to Denver to meet with state and major urban area fusion center leaders and deliver remarks at the National Fusion Center Conference, where she announced the expansion of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) "If You See Something, Say Something™" campaign to the state of Colorado. "Homeland security begins with hometown security, and our national network of fusion centers plays a critical role in improving our collective ability to protect our communities," said Secretary Napolitano. During her remarks to more than 1,000 fusion center directors, homeland security advisors, law enforcement and intelligence officials, Secretary Napolitano reiterated the Department's strong support for fusion centers—highlighting the deployment of 70 experienced DHS intelligence officers to work side by side with federal, state and local fusion center personnel nationwide to assess threats and share information. http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr_1300218779518.shtm



D.C. Republicans targeted by apparent shooter

(NCR BOLO)

District Republicans often feel like they're metaphorically under fire in a city that's 70 percent Democratic. But what happened last night appears to be unprecedented. Paul Craney, executive director of the D.C. Republican Committee, says that a shooter took out the windows at the GOP's storefront office, near 13th and K streets NW, with a small-caliber projectile, possibly from an air gun. Craney said he got a call from an alarm company early Wednesday morning but didn't pick up the call. And when he showed up to work this morning the alarm was on. But he didn't notice the fenestration damage until later in the day. "I was getting lunch, and noticed: Oh my god, our windows are all shot up." While on the phone with a reporter, Craney discovered an approximately BB-sized piece of shot on the ground outside the window. Craney said the D.C. GOP office appeared to be specifically targeted. "We're right by a hair salon, and the hair salon was fine. But we weren't," he said. "There were multiple shots. Whoever did it took some time to take out our windows." As for who is responsible, Craney said he suspects "people who don't like glass, or people who don't like the Republican Party." His landlord, he said, has contacted police. http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/mike-debonis/post/dc-republicans-targeted-by-apparent-shooter/2011/03/16/ABpxe9e_blog.html

Street Gang No More, MS-13 Moves into Organized Crime

El Salvador's infamous street gangs, including the Mara Salvatruchas (MS-13), are getting more deeply involved in drug trafficking and are poised to become major players in transnational crime. This marks a further step in the group's evolution from a loose-knit association of small-time street gangs to become a much more formidable and organized force. According to El Salvador's principal newspaper, El Diario del Hoy, sources in police and military intelligence say that certain factions of the MS-13 now control prime drug-trafficking territory on the coast of the southwestern province La Union. Several of these groups have reportedly divided among themselves the strategic area around the Fonseca Gulf, a bay whose perimeter is also shared by Honduras and Nicaragua, and are seeking a foothold on islands in the gulf. The gangs have upped their game; instead of escaping on bicycles or in cars, the MS-13 now speed away from crime scenes on go-fast boats. <http://www.insightcrime.org/insight-latest-news/item/659-el-salvadors-gangs-get-organized>

**Jihadi Media Outfit Rolls Out a Terrorist Lady Mag**

(Terrorism TTP)

Earlier this month, Al-Fajr, a jihadist media distribution outlet, published the first issue of *Al-Shamikha* ("the majestic woman"), an online magazine marketed exclusively toward a female jihadi audience. Welcome to the *she-had*. *Shamika* seems to be a mix of beauty tips (avoid "toweling too forcibly," ladies) with the usual dose of al-Qaeda propaganda. Its opening pages describe the magazine's purpose as inspiring more female terrorists, "since [the enemies] know all too well what would happen if women entered the field of jihad." *Shamika*'s table of contents lists articles on "Marrying a jihadist," "Sharia law that applies to you" and "Your house is your kingdom," as well as a "meeting with a jihad wife. The *Independent* writes that issue No. 2 will have tips on waging "electronic jihad." <http://www.wired.com/dangerroom/2011/03/jihadi-media-outfit-rolls-out-a-terrorist-ladymag/>



FBI – Sovereign Citizen Cases on the Rise

Federal authorities are seeing an increase in the number of foreclosed and unoccupied homes in metro Atlanta being seized by members of an anti-government group. "I'm not sure I can connect it with the economy, but we've seen a surge of these in the last year, in particular," Stephen Emmett, special agent in the Atlanta field office of the FBI, said Saturday. Emmet said federal and local authorities increasingly are running into confrontations with members of a sect known as "sovereign citizens." The group believes banks can't own land or property and that any home owned by a bank, including the thousands of foreclosed properties throughout Georgia, are theirs for the taking. Sovereign citizens don't believe courts have jurisdiction over them. They don't believe in paying taxes or acquiring driver's licenses or car tags. They do, however, believe abandoned properties are ripe for the taking. They often use quit-claim deeds to take over properties and as soon as they move in post trespassing signs warning people to stay off the property. The group uses YouTube to educate the public about their philosophy and recruit new members. <http://www.ajc.com/news/clayton/fbi-sovereign-citizen-cases-861611.html>



Criminals Kick Off Japanese Disaster Scams at Record Speed

Criminals have jumped on Japan's twin earthquake and tsunami disasters at record speed. Scams range from links to fake anti-virus downloads and phony donation sites to classic online swindles that rely on greed. Facebook has been used by cyber-crooks to collect information when users click on a link posing as CNN video footage of the tsunami. Scammers are also flooding e-mail inboxes with messages asking recipients to donate money to relief efforts, said a Symantec researcher. Another Symantec researcher noted that other scams have appeared taking advantage of news of the earthquake and tsunami. Crooks have also registered a large number of domains with URLs that may fool users into thinking that they are legitimate donation or relief sites, he said, a tactic that can also push those sites higher on search results. http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9214518/Criminals_kick_off_Japanese_disaster_scams_at_record_speed



More U.S. Relief Crews Exposed to Radiation in Japan

More U.S. military crews were exposed to radiation March 15 as the Pentagon ramped up relief flights over a Japan reeling from an earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear crisis. The Defense Department said the Navy started giving anti-radiation pills to some of those exposed, and Americans on two military bases south of Tokyo were advised to stay indoors as much as possible. Meanwhile, U.S. aviation and energy officials also worked with Japanese counterparts on the nuclear developments. The U.S. Navy said it was redirecting three ships to work in the Sea of Japan on the country's west coast rather than risk the hazards of radiation and the debris field in the waters off the east coast. http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2011/03/15/general-us-usjapan_8357194.html



Napolitano: U.S. Drills For Disasters like Japan's

U.S. emergency agencies constantly rehearse for a disaster like the one unfolding in Japan, and American first responders will learn from the experience of their Japanese counterparts, the Homeland Security Secretary said March 15. Speaking at a conference in Denver, Colorado, she said the United States was already planning a drill based on a hypothetical major earthquake along the New Madrid fault in the central United States when the earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear-reactor crisis struck Japan. "We are constantly practicing, using scenarios that are worst-case scenarios, to make sure we are as prepared and as up-to-date and as ready to go as we can be in any kind of a crisis," she said. The DHS Secretary also added that it is too early to say whether U.S. practices or preparations will change because of the disasters in Japan. But she said the U.S. will learn from Japan's experience, as it did from Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico last year. The DHS Secretary spoke at a conference on the U.S. network of "fusion centers," which gather and share federal, state, and local intelligence on terrorism and other threats. She said terrorist plots by U.S. residents or citizens are increasing, and the centers are a key part of the U.S. counter-terrorism strategy. There are about 70 fusion centers nationwide. <http://www.homeland1.com/disaster-preparedness/articles/992767-NapolitanoUS-drills-for-disasters-like-Japans/>



Company recalls protein powder over salmonella concerns

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food is alerting Utah consumers of a food recall involving possible salmonella poisoning. Vitalabs Inc. of Jonesboro, Georgia, voluntarily recalled four specific lot numbers of Whey-26 Protein Powder due to concerns over potential salmonella contamination. The recall, issued by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, extends to various parts of the United States including Utah, Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Washington as well as in Aruba, Ontario, Canada, and Poland abroad. The recalled product was offered through a variety of distribution channels, including health food stores, clinics, fitness centers, and Internet-based companies, but is not generally sold in grocery stores. <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/705368679/Company-recalls-protein-powder-over-salmonella-concerns.html>

(Public Health)



National awareness campaign planned for March 20-26 to reduce poisonings in U.S.

In ongoing efforts to protect people's health, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is collaborating with the Poison Prevention Week Council to encourage the public to keep poisonous substances out of the hands of children. In observance of National Poison Prevention Week (March 20-26), EPA recommends that locking household cleaners, disinfectants, solvents and other materials is the best way to reduce accidental poisoning among children. Leading causes of poisonings include cosmetics such as perfume and nail polish, deodorant and soap, household cleaning products and medications. Adults are also susceptible to poisoning (intentional or unintentional), but from generally different sources, including pain medicines, sedatives (drugs to reduce anxiety), sleeping pills, antipsychotics used to treat mental illness, household cleaning products, antidepressants, cardiovascular drugs (drugs to treat heart disease) and alcohols. Anyone who has been exposed to a pesticide or other toxic substance and may be experiencing non-life-threatening symptoms should call the National Poison Center hotline at 1-800-222-1222. More information on poison prevention: <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/poisonprevention.htm>

(Public Health)



Counterfeit Pills Flood U.S.: How to Spot Fakes

(Public Health)

The U.S. is being deluged with counterfeit prescription drugs, and that's putting Americans' health at risk. Fake versions of antibiotics, blood pressure drugs, painkillers, anti-anxiety medications, and other common medicines - can be hard to tell from the real things. But they're often made under unsanitary conditions and may contain only a fraction of the active ingredient they're supposed to - if they contain any at all. The drugs are often sold via rogue websites that offer the drugs at steep discounts from the usual prices. Thirty-six million Americans are believed to have bought their medicines from these sites, including some sites that pretend to be based in Canada, where legitimate prescription drugs sometimes are available for lower prices than in the U.S. Counterfeit version of drugs made by Pfizer have made their way to pharmacies and hospitals in at least 46 countries, including England, Canada, and the U.S., according to John Clark, a former FBI agent who now heads Pfizer's anti-counterfeit team. http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504763_162-20042840-10391704.html



Resources

GlobalIncidentMap.com

A Global Display of Terrorism And Other Suspicious Events

DomesticTerrorMap.com

Washington DC Links

Live Traffic Reports <http://www.ddot.dc.gov/traffic>

Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency <http://hsema.dc.gov/dcema/site/default.asp>

DC Department of Health <http://dchealth.dc.gov/doh/site/default.asp>

Sign-up for Alerts <https://textalert.ema.dc.gov/index.php?CCheck=1>

To request a DC Government Service, call 311 or 202-727-1000, also online at <http://src.dc.gov>

About WRTAC: The Washington Regional Threat & Analysis Center is the District of Columbia's fusion center. The WRTAC was formed in 2007 in order to facilitate prevention, response, and mitigation to criminal and terrorist activities, as well as man-made and/or natural disasters by collecting, analyzing, and disseminating diverse intelligence information and intelligence products.

WRTAC supports multidisciplinary, proactive, risk-based, and community-focused problem solving. WRTAC provides a continuous flow of information and intelligence to officials to assist in developing a depiction of evolving threats and mitigation strategies.



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