

## **Campus Public Safety News September 2006**

The International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA) and the College and University Police Section of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) are encouraged to share the following information with their members:

### *Homeland Security*

#### **National Anti-Terrorism Academy**

On September 8, 2006, Los Angeles Police Chief William Bratton announced plans to create a national anti-terrorism academy in Los Angeles where law enforcement officers from around the country could learn to identify threats and prevent attacks. During the announcement ceremony, which took place at the World Trade Center, U.S. Attorney General Gonzales warned that "...the threat of homegrown terrorism not directly linked to Al Qaeda is rising and that local police must play a larger role in preventing attacks."

#### **U.S. Born Potential Terrorists**

Intelligence officials now fear that homegrown pose as much of a threat to the U.S. as foreign terrorists. Charles Allen, the chief intelligence officer at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security is quoted as saying that federal intelligence analysts will rely heavily on suspicious activity reports and other information from state and local authorities to root out homegrown.

See [http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/H/HOMEGROWN\\_TERRORISTS?SITE=WRKO&S](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/H/HOMEGROWN_TERRORISTS?SITE=WRKO&S)

#### **Stick of Dynamite in College Student's Luggage**

In late August, a 21 year old Lafayette College student attempted to re-enter the United States from Argentina with a stick of dynamite in his checked luggage. According to aviation security experts, dynamite can be unstable, particularly when old – this incident could have been disastrous. Federal authorities are indicating no nexus to terrorism at this point in the investigation.

#### **Understanding Terror Networks**

In a September 13, 2006 Washington Post editorial, columnist David Ignatius describes the findings of a study by Marc Sageman, a retired CIA case officer and psychiatrist, who looked at data on approximately 400 jihadists. "Sageman argues in his book, 'Understanding Terror Networks,' that we are facing something closer to a cult network than an organized global adversary. Like many cults through history, the Muslim terrorists thrive by channeling and perverting the idealism of young people." The jihadists studied by Sageman were not poor, desperate sociopaths but restless young men who found identity by joining the terrorist underground. Ninety percent came from intact families, 63 percent had gone to college, 75 percent were professionals or semi-professionals and 73 percent were married.

#### **Sudden Jihadist Syndrome**

An editorial appearing in the September 4, 2006, Baltimore Examiner describes the *Sudden Jihadist Syndrome* as involving "...Muslims who lead quiet lives before turning to terrorism." The editorial cites the case of Iranian immigrant Mohammed Reza Taheri-azar who deliberately rammed a sport utility vehicle into a group of students and faculty at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill to "punish the government of the United States for their actions around the world." Taheri-azar impressed others on campus as quiet, intelligent and friendly.

### **Radical Islam on British Campuses**

The September 6, 2006 *Chronicle of Higher Education* points us to an article on *Prospect Magazine's* Web site by Shiraz Maher, entitled, "Campus Radicals." An abstract of the article says "Universities are fertile recruiting ground for extremist Islamist groups like Hizbut-Tahir and al-Muhajiroun. Vice-Chancellors need to start paying attention."

See <http://www.prospect-magazine.co.uk/printarticle.php?id=7742>

### **Terrorist Recruitment on the Internet**

On September 14, 2006, the FBI Counterterrorism Division issued Intelligence Bulletin No. 220 entitled, "Potential for Terrorist Recruitment on the Internet." The Bulletin, which is *Unclassified/Law Enforcement Sensitive* and available through Law Enforcement Online, makes the following points:

- Extremist may use the Internet to radicalize or recruit young people, isolated individuals, and potential homegrown extremists. Young people are generally comfortable with information technology and those lacking social networks may turn to the Internet frequently. Extremist ideology espoused on Internet sites may provide a sense of purpose and belonging. Extremist Web sites may be effective in radicalizing homegrown extremists who would not otherwise have personal exposure to extremists overseas.
- Web sites may also be effective in the self-recruitment process, in which individuals seek out extremist Web sites for information on radical ideology or how to become involved in terrorist activity.
- Domestic extremist groups are also likely to use the Internet for recruitment and radicalization.

### **Student Visa Program Vulnerable to Exploitation**

On September 8, 2006, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the FBI jointly issued Intelligence Bulletin No. 219 entitled, "Start of the University – Year Reminder that Student Visa Program Vulnerable to Exploitation." The Bulletin, which is *Unclassified/For Official Use Only*, is available through Law Enforcement Online.

### **Aftereffects of September 11 on Campuses**

The September 8, 2006, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, includes an article entitled, "Aftereffects of September 11 Attacks are Still Being Felt on Campuses, Survey Finds." The article describes the results of a survey of 133 presidents and senior-level administrators at private colleges in 31 states and the District of Columbia. The survey, which was conducted by the National Association

of Independent Colleges and Universities, identifies many of the continuing concerns on college campuses from 9/11.

### **Colleges Boost Stadium Security**

This September 8, 2006 USA TODAY electronic article describes the partnership between the Preparedness Directorate at DHS and campus public safety agencies to enhance security at large capacity sports venues. "University security already looks at a full range of hazards, from weather issues to medical emergencies to criminal incidents," according to George Foresman, the DHS Undersecretary for Preparedness. "Now, in post 9/11, we're giving them the tools to be ready for a terrorist threat." The article describes how some colleges and universities are using federal homeland security formula grant funds administered by the states.

See <http://usatoday.printthis.clickability.com/pt/cpt?action=cpt&title=USATODAY.com>

### **Colleges Hit by Hurricanes to Receive Federal Grants**

On September 18, 2006, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* ran an article entitled, "Colleges Hit by Hurricanes in 2005 to Receive \$50 Million in New Federal Grants." The article indicates that "Forty-two colleges that were forced to close, relocate, or scale back operations as a result of last year's hurricanes will receive grants of up to \$7.5 million each..."

See <http://chronicle.com/daily/2006/09/2006091804n.htm>

### **All U.S. Public Schools to Get Weather Radios**

According to a September 25, 2006, article in [pressconnects.com](http://pressconnects.com), DHS and the National Weather Service are making sure all 97,000 public schools in the United States have hazard warning radios. These radios are activated with a broadcast signal that automatically turns the radio on and announces a potential hazard, e.g., terrorism, abducted children and derailed trains carrying toxic materials.

The radios are also sold at electronics and other stores for \$20 to \$80. Most can be programmed to respond only to warnings for a specific county or city.

DO YOU HAVE YOURS?

See <http://www.pressconnects.com/apps/pbcs.d11/article?Date=20060925&Category=NEWS01>

### **Operation Backfire: A Significant Blow to Animal Rights/Eco-Terrorists**

The FBI Counterterrorism Division recently issued the above-referenced Intelligence Assessment, which is *Unclassified/Law Enforcement Sensitive*. Two of the Assessment's findings:

- The arrests of eco-terrorists resulting from Operation Backfire will likely lead to increased distrust, paranoia, and the implementation of strict operational security measures among animal rights extremists and eco-terrorists.
- The arrests could spark "solidarity" attacks by extremists.

The Assessment is available through Law Enforcement Online.

### **Officer Safety Alert**

From the FBI Minneapolis – Mobile Locator is a service offered by Nextel that allows an individual to track the location with GPS accuracy of any Nextel phone, nationwide. An individual was evidently able to obtain this tracking service for the phone of a local narcotics officer by only providing Nextel with the officer's phone number. Traditional security measures (passwords) were either not employed by Nextel or simply failed.

### **Guns on Campus – University of Utah**

According to the September 11, 2006, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, the Utah Supreme Court ruled that the University of Utah cannot ban guns on campus in defiance of a state gun-rights law. The article indicates that the university plans to pursue the issue in federal courts.

My latest understanding is that the university plans to seek relief through the Utah legislature.

### **Shepherd University**

On September 3, 2006, the father of two Shepherd University students who were brothers, shot and killed the students on campus and then killed himself. The brothers, both seniors, were also roommates. West Virginia State Police investigated the tragedy.

### **Colleges Disagree on Use of Metal Detectors**

In a September 20, 2006 electronic article entitled, "Colleges Disagree on Use of Metal Detectors at Campus Events," the Pittsburgh post-gazette.com describes differences in opinion on security measures in the aftermath of the shooting of five Duquesne University students.

See <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/0623/723346-298.stm>

### **Student Cellphones Equipped with GPS**

In the aftermath of the Dawson College shooting in Canada, New Jersey colleges and universities were reassessing their own safety according to an article in NorthJersey.com. The article points out that Montclair State University won a national security award for offering students cellphones "... equipped with GPS tracking devices. Students can press a button to alert campus security to their whereabouts if they feel threatened."

See <http://www.northjersey.com/print.php?qstr=ZmdiZWw3Zjd2cWVIRUV5eTY5OTIzOTE>

### **Assaults Sounding Alarms on Campuses**

The typical college student's false sense of security is discussed in the above-referenced article, which appears in daytondailynews.com.

See <http://daytondaily.printthis.clickability.com/pt/cpt?action=cpt&title=Assaults+sounding>

*Announcements*

**Police Executive Fellowship Program**

Lieutenant Laura McCollough Bennett, University of West Georgia Police Department, entered on duty with the FBI Police Executive Fellowship Program on September 11, 2006. Laura is assigned to the Directorate of Intelligence, Field Intelligence Groups (FIGs) Oversight Unit.

Laura has been briefed on the FBI Office of Law Enforcement Coordination's partnerships with IACLEA and the IACP, and the resulting accomplishments.

I hope this information is useful to you.

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