

## HOMELAND SECURITY DAILY UPDATE

JULY 14, 2016

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- [Coast Guard Achieves Full Operating Capability on Insider Threat Program](#)
- [Integrated Product Teams for DHS R&D Report](#)
- [Singapore: Psychologists Developing New Visitor Questionnaire to Counter Border Risks](#)

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## Agency Management

### [ICE Names New Special Agent in Charge to Lead New York City Homeland Security Investigations](#)

Source: ICE, 7/13/16

ICE Director Sarah R. Saldaña has named Angel M. Melendez as the special agent in charge of ICE Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) in New York City. Prior to this appointment, Melendez served in a number of executive leadership positions, most recently as the special agent in charge for San Juan, Puerto Rico HSI Office, served as a subject matter expert and advised DHS and ICE senior leadership on issues related to Confidential Informants and Witness Support Programs and served as chief for the Investigative Support Section.

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### [Integrated Product Teams for DHS R&D Report](#)

Source: DHS, 7/12/16

At the conclusion of the FY2016 IPT process, the S&T Directorate developed a final report to capture the process and methodology used to conduct the IPTs as well as the technological capability gaps and high priority technology solutions collected from operational components who sat on each IPT.

Because of the sensitivity of DHS mission areas, the department is releasing an abbreviated version of the report to share the efforts DHS is making to coordinate its R&D and how it is addressing priority homeland security technological needs. This report will be developed annually, at the conclusion of each IPT cycle.

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## CBRNE / Public Health Threats & Countermeasures

### [Hospitals Gird for Party Conventions](#)

Source: STAT News, 7/12/16

Across both Cleveland and Philadelphia, hospitals are girding for the presidential nominating conventions. Both cities can expect a slew of relatively minor problems: exhaustion, dehydration, misplaced medications. Then there are the big fears: terrorist attacks, riots, shootings, fistfights.

Hospitals are holding off on elective surgeries, asking trauma surgeons to defer vacations, and stockpiling enough equipment to last 96 hours without resupply. Both Cleveland and Philadelphia will set up an incident command center, where a central authority will make top-line medical decisions in the event of an emergency. And hospitals are ensuring they're prepared not only to handle a flood of patients, but also to transport them across the country if needed, because any given region can generally handle just a few hundred patients in intensive care.

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## **New Method Can Identify Chemical Warfare Agents More Easily**

Source: Elsevier, 7/13/16

A new method for extracting, enriching, and identifying chemical warfare agents from oils and other organic liquids could help government officials and homeland security protect civilians more effectively from their deadly effects. The method, published in *Journal of Chromatography A*, uses nanoparticles to capture the chemicals.

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## **Cybersecurity**

### **Coast Guard Achieves Full Operating Capability on Insider Threat Program**

Source: Federal News Radio, 7/13/16

The Coast Guard says it's the first agency in the Executive Branch to achieve full operating capability on its insider threat program.

The National Insider Threat Task Force evaluated the program earlier this year and called it the "gold standard" for small agencies, said Rear Adm. Robert Hayes, Assistant Commandant for intelligence at the Coast Guard, during a [July 13 hearing](#) before the House Homeland Security Committee. Hayes said his agency is now at the point where it's giving advice to other organizations about the implementation of their insider threat programs.

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### **EU Launches Study on Cybersecurity Measures for 'Smart' Cars**

Source: Inside Cybersecurity, 7/14/16

The EU Agency for Network and Information Security [announced](#) a new study on cybersecurity for next-generation automobiles, planning a workshop in October to solicit feedback and validate study findings. The objective of the new project, according to ENISA, is to "establish a comprehensive list of cybersecurity policies, tools, standards, measures, and provide recommendations to enhance the level of security of smart cars."

The study will focus on technology embedded in the automobiles as well as data exchanges between vehicles and infrastructure, ENISA adds.

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## **NRC Cybersecurity Plan Making Speedy Progress**

Source: Federal Times, 7/13/16

Despite the potentially devastating effects of a release of radioactive material, the nuclear sector is generally regarded as well-secured. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission oversees the industry, which has been working from a cybersecurity plan since 2009 that is making speedy progress.

“In 2009, we finalized a cybersecurity rule for the nuclear power plants to follow. In 2012, we completed inspections of those or started inspections of those. The first cycle of equipment was done and inspected at all 60-some sites by 2015,” said Brian Holian, director of the NRC’s Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response.

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## **EP&R / First Responders**

### **Vermont: ‘Largest Ever’ Emergency Drill to Test Responders**

Source: VT Digger, 7/14/16

A series of simulated incidents over the course of nine days this summer will test Vermont’s emergency responders. The event, called Vigilant Guard, will take place in 50 places around the state and involve some 5,000 emergency responders, according to the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. State officials characterized the event as the “largest ever emergency exercise” in Vermont.

It has been in the works for three years. The federal government, which requires such tests of the state’s emergency response system, is footing the estimated \$570,000 bill, according to Christopher Herrick, DEMHS Director. He said he could not share many details of the event, in part because he does not know the details, but that simulations will test cybersecurity as well as urban search and rescue.

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## **Immigration, Border Security and Smuggling**

### **Feds Report Growth in Program to Fly Central American Minors to U.S.**

Source: Breitbart News, 7/13/16

More than 7,300 immigrant parents have applied to have the U.S. government bring their children to the U.S. from Central America via the Central American Minors Refugee/Parole Program (CAM), according to USCIS’ annual *Ombudsman report*. The CAM program allows immigrants who, in most cases, would not normally qualify for legal family reunification programs, to petition

to have their children living in El Salvador, Guatemala, or Honduras to come to the U.S. as refugees or parolees.

According to the Ombudsman report, as of March 21, the State Department had received 7,357 CAM applications filed by parents representing 8,035 Central American minors — a substantial increase over the 565 CAM applications received in the first five months of the program. As of March 28, the CAM program had facilitated the arrival of 144 Central American minors (46 processed as refugees and 98 as parolees).

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## **Singapore: Psychologists Developing New Visitor Questionnaire to Counter Border Risks**

Source: The Straits Times, 7/14/16

Officers at Singapore's border checkpoints will have an enhanced set of questions to interview visitors, in an effort to better detect those who pose a risk to the country and, if needed, prevent them from entering the island. This Security Screening Questionnaire is being developed by psychologists from the Home Team Behavioral Sciences Centre working with the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority and academics from the Portsmouth University in Britain.

It is one of two new measures drawing on knowledge of human behavior to detect and address threats to Singapore early. The other is an Online Violent Extremism Screening Tool, being worked on by Home Team psychologists. This tool includes a checklist to help officers identify those who engage in violent radical activity online, and intervene early before they do harm.

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## **Infrastructure Security & Resilience**

### **Arizona: Bridge Energy Tech Transforms Grid Data into Images**

Source: Smart Grid News, 7/14/16

BRIDGE Energy Group has developed a Geospatial Visualization System (GVS) that Arizona Public Service (APS) deployed in an energy control center, transforming thousands of data elements of the Arizona transmission grid. The visualization improves situational awareness and helps operators to proactively respond to potential problems.

Data from 900 substations, 1,200 transmission lines and 75 generating units is correlated and processed and then delivered to the energy control center operators in near real-time. The data is then displayed geospatially in map layers and graphically via dynamic dashboards.

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## **Next-Generation Infrastructure for Public Protection and Disaster Relief Organizations**

Source: SPIE, 7/12/16

Existing public protection and disaster relief (PPDR) technologies are based on mature private mobile radio infrastructures, and they include the Terrestrial Trunked Radio (TETRA), TETRAPOL, and Project 25 (used specifically in North America) approaches.

In this work, we present the design of a next-generation communication infrastructure for PPDR organizations, with which we can fulfill several requirements, e.g., the need for secure and seamless end-to-end communication and for interoperable information exchange within the networks.

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## Intelligence, Information Sharing, & Law Enforcement

### [Catch ICE HSI Special Agents on CNBC's 'American Greed'](#)

Source: ICE, 7/13/16

Don't miss special agents from ICE's Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) on an episode of "American Greed," July 14 at 10 pm. ET on *CNBC* as they tackle cross-border telemarketing fraud threatening U.S. citizens. The show features the agency's efforts to bring down a Jamaican lottery scam, in which perpetrators call U.S. citizens and inform them that they have won the lottery.

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### [NGA Awards First Contract for BAA to Boost Innovative GEOINT](#)

Source: National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, 7/13/16

The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency awarded a contract to evaluate the success of its geospatial intelligence (GEOINT) to its users. NGA awarded Commonwealth Computer Research, Inc. (CCRI), a \$499,767 contract to research current GEOINT user communities and methods to enable data analytics to improve customer support. The contract runs July 5, 2016 to April 2017.

CCRI is using machine learning and neural networks to identify GEOINT user communities and characteristics of GEOINT data that contribute most to the success of each user community. A dashboard will allow NGA to see what is of value to its customers, as well as steer users to specific GEOINT data that has the highest likelihood of providing value to the user.

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### [Report: ICE Underreported Criminal Convictions of Aliens in FY 2014](#)

Source: HS Today, 7/13/16

The House Judiciary Committee recently learned that ICE significantly underreported the number of criminal convictions of aliens released by the agency in 2014. A report provided by ICE to the Judiciary Committee claimed that 30,558 aliens with a total of 79,059 convictions were released from their custody in FY2014. However, a separate report released by the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR), a non-profit that advocates changes in U.S. immigration policy, puts the number of total convictions at 92,347.

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## Legislative

### **Congress Passes Aviation Bill to Close Airport Security Gaps**

Source: AP, 7/13/16

The Senate passed an aviation bill Wednesday that attempts to close gaps in airport security and shorten screening lines, but leaves thornier issues unresolved. The bill authorizes a doubling of TSA teams that stop and search suspicious passengers in airport public areas that are outside the security perimeter, often using bomb-sniffing dogs.

It also authorizes TSA to donate unneeded security equipment to foreign airports with direct flights to the U.S., and directs TSA to reconfigure security systems at three to six airports, an initial step to increase efficiency and reduce vulnerabilities in terminals.

The bill extends the FAA's programs for 14 months at current funding levels. The House had passed the measure earlier in the week and it now goes to President Obama, who must sign the bill by Friday when the FAA's current operating authority expires.

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## Maritime & Transportation Security

### **Neffenger: Cuba Must Meet Security Standards for Flights**

Source: USA TODAY, 7/13/16

TSA Administrator Peter Neffenger said Wednesday that scheduled airline flights from Cuba wouldn't be allowed in the U.S. until security is as tight as any other foreign airport sending flights to this country. "Before we allow a flight to come here directly from Cuba, we will ensure that they do in fact meet all the requirements we put in place at last points of departure," Neffenger told reporters after a speech at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

"We don't change the requirements country to country," Neffenger said. "The baseline is: You have to meet an equivalent level of security if you want to fly to the United States."

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### **UK: Gatwick Aims to Halve Waiting Times with New North Terminal Security Zone**

Source: Future Travel Experience, July 2016

Gatwick Airport has opened its new North Terminal security area, which will allow the airport to screen up to 5,000 passengers per hour. Gatwick says the new £36 million project will halve the time it takes passengers to pass through security, while maintaining the strictest security measures.

Each lane has seven so-called "loading points," which increases the number of passengers able to prepare for the screening process at any given time. Dedicated lanes for premium travellers, families and passengers with reduced mobility have also been introduced. Seventeen new e-gates have also been installed at the entrance to the security checkpoint to help reduce queues.

## People & Business

### **[Deltek: Federal IT Spending to Remain Flat Over Next 5 Years](#)**

Source: Nextgov, 7/13/16

According to the analysts at Deltek, federal IT spending will actually decline over the next five years as agencies attempt to modernize aging IT infrastructure and reduce duplicative technologies and investments. The [Federal Information Technology Market](#) report released earlier this month estimates total federal IT spending declining from \$99.8 billion in FY2016 to \$98.3 billion by 2021.

Deltek estimates growth opportunities in cybersecurity as well as cloud computing, data center optimization, big data and infrastructure modernization.

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### **[IBM Launches Cloud Services for Blockchain on Industry's Most Secure Server](#)**

Source: IBM, 7/14/16

IBM announced a cloud service for organizations requiring a secure environment for blockchain networks. Ideal for organizations in regulated industries, this environment allows clients to test and run blockchain projects that handle private data. IBM's secure blockchain cloud environment is underpinned by IBM LinuxONE, the industry's most secure Linux-only server. LinuxONE is designed to meet the stringent security requirements of the financial, health care and government sectors, helping to foster compliance.

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