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WEEKLY MEDIA REPORT

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Drug Safety Watchdog Sees al-Qa'ida Risk to U.S. Food, Drug Imports

A leading drug-industry watchdog has reported that scant monitoring of expanding U.S. food and medicine imports could heighten the risk of biological attack by al-Qa'ida or other terrorist groups. Over the past two years, reports of tainted ingredients in powdered milk, blood-thinner medication, and pet foods manufactured in China have underscored the perils of globalization for U.S. public health. Thus far, repeat incidents of contaminated foreign foods and medicines appear to reflect a drive to reduce production costs in poorly regulated nations, rather than an intention to harm consumers.

Source: [Global Security Newswire](#)

Europe Jihadist Push Goes Underground

Prisons and private homes have taken over from mosques as recruiting hubs for Islamist radicals in Europe. Under pressure from state surveillance and disapproval from local communities, extremists who once trawled high-profile mosques for recruits increasingly use more discreet venues including makeshift prayer halls and bookshops. This may be due to mosques becoming more vigilant and clamping down on extremism. Giving an example of the trend, "Mosques in Spain continue to be frequented by extremists, but potential recruits are now invited to private study group sessions as soon as a promising relationship has been established."

Source: [Arab Times](#)

Rules Say New Reactors Must Withstand Plane Strike

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission on Tuesday required makers of new nuclear power plants to design the reactors so they can withstand the impact from a commercial jetliner. The commission's approval of the regulation concludes more than two years of deliberations over the potential threat of a large aircraft crashing into a nuclear power plant, an issue that gained attention after the September 11 terrorist attacks. The rule requires the design of new reactors to ensure if an aircraft crashed into the plant, its reactor containment would remain intact, cooling systems would continue to operate, and spent fuel pools would be protected. The three reactor designs that have attracted the greatest interest from American utilities are from Westinghouse Electric Co., General Electric Co., and Areva Group. All of the manufacturers have said their designs, similar to light-water reactors already in use, have features making them safer

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and somewhat less susceptible to catastrophic damage from an attack using a large aircraft.

Source: [Associated Press](#)

Body Scanners Being Tested to Replace Metal Detectors

According to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), some airline passengers will skip metal detectors and instead be screened by body scanning machines that look through clothing for hidden weapons. An experimental program will test whether the body scanners could replace metal detectors that have screened airline passengers since 1973. Airports in San Francisco, Las Vegas, Miami, Albuquerque, and Salt Lake City will join the test in the next two months. The scanners aim to close a loophole by finding non-metallic weapons such as plastic and liquid explosives, which the TSA considers a major threat. The TSA has been doing preliminary tests of the scanner on passengers who had just passed through metal detectors. Those tests found the machines excel at finding hidden objects. Based on the results of the latest test, the TSA will decide at an undetermined date whether to use more body scanners in place of metal detectors.

Source: [USA Today](#)

Gang Leader Sentenced for Recruiting

According to the Commonwealth's Attorney's office, a self-described leader of the Portsmouth Bounty Hunters Bloods was sentenced to prison Wednesday. Phillips was convicted in December of recruiting teens to join the gang and commit crimes. Portsmouth police charged four individuals, including three juveniles, for a series of burglaries in the Cradock section of the city in October. The Portsmouth Police Gang Intelligence Unit executed five search warrants at the homes of Bloods gang members. During the search, police seized stolen electronic equipment, computers, jewelry, and gaming systems. The juveniles were charged with one count each of grand larceny and gang participation and additional charges are pending.

Source: [Wavy 10.com](#)

Police: Gang Initiation May Have Involved Forced Sex

For a woman to join the 3-1 Cix Mafia gang in Spotsylvania, she has to be "sexed-in." A Spotsylvania County man, who is already charged with multiple sexual crimes, is now being investigated as to whether those assaults were part of a gang initiation process. A search warrant affidavit filed this week in Spotsylvania County Circuit Court states a computer was seized from a Spotsylvania residence in connection with the investigation regarding involvement in the 3-1 Cix Mafia, which is a subset of the Crips gang.

Source: [Free Lance Star](#)

Chesterfield Teen's Murderer Has Gang Affiliation

Law enforcement sources confirmed that a suspect charged with killing a Chesterfield County teenager was affiliated with the Bloods gang at the time of the August 2007 killing. The suspect's gang affiliation appears to have figured into the events leading to the murder. The suspect has been charged with first-degree murder and felony firearm charges.

Source: [Richmond Times Dispatch](#)