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WEEKLY MEDIA REPORT

September 18, 2008

Fourteen Arrested at Dominion-Owned Power Plant in Wise County

Fourteen protesters were arrested on September 15 after locking themselves to steel drums at the construction site of a coal-fired power plant. According to local law enforcement, approximately 30 people began protesting at about 0600 hours, when a number of protesters began to insert their arms into drums which were chained to an entrance gate. According to officials, the incident did not disrupt traffic on major thoroughfares and employees were able to access their work site through a different entrance.

Source: [Washington Post](http://www.washingtonpost.com) and *VFC Information Report C082771*, dated September 15, 2008.



YouTube Bars Radical Islamist Videos Following Complaint from Lieberman

Google posted new "Community Guidelines" on September 10 which barred a list of nefarious behaviors, including harassment, intimidation, and inciting others to commit violent acts. Following a statement by Senator Lieberman, head of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, praising this action, Google announced that it had removed roughly 80 video clips that featured gratuitous violence and hate speech. Senator Lieberman noted, "YouTube was being used by Islamist terrorist organizations to recruit and train followers...around the world and right here in the U.S." Subsequent searches of YouTube content revealed radical Islamist preaching and messages, but none of the clips returned contained violence.

Source: [FOX News](http://www.foxnews.com)

Shopping Malls: Are They Prepared for an Attack?

A recently released study funded by the National Institute of Justice reviewed data on private security efforts to secure retail malls against terror threats. The study included surveys of both homeland security advisors and mall security directors, site visits to several malls across the U.S., and reviews of applicable state legislation. Key findings suggested several opportunities to improve emergency preparedness and response, including improved security measures, improved screening measures for prospective security personnel, increased training for security staff, and improved emergency management planning and risk assessment.

OPEN SOURCE

U.S. Starts Scanning Incoming Air Cargo

DHS initiated a program to screen arriving cargo through large-scale Radiation Portal Monitors at Dulles International Airport. While DHS notes that there is no specific information indicating terrorist efforts to import radiological material via commercial or cargo aircraft, this initiative addresses a concern raised in the 9/11 Commission's final report. DHS advised that their plan calls for the eventual installation of radiation detectors at the 30 largest airports in the U.S., with four more airports slated to implement this program by year's end.

Source: [USA Today](#)

Lawmakers Warned of Threats to the Grid

Lawmakers are debating a draft bill that would shore up the nation's electrical grid against cyber-attacks. Featured in the debate were the results of a 2007 September experimental "Aurora" attack, DHS hacked into the lab's electrical system and altered the operating cycle of the generator, causing it to explode. Discussions also referenced the vulnerability of the nation's electrical infrastructure highlighted during the massive 2003 Northeast blackout that left 50 million people without power and cost around \$10 billion to fix. While a set of standards for shoring up defenses against cyber-threats has been issued by the industry group National American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), audits by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) found that the self-regulatory approach had fallen short, and that many facilities on the Bulk Power System (BPS) grid were still vulnerable. According to a FERC Chairman, "Many -- and really most -- electric facilities are capable of remote operation," exacerbating cyber-vulnerabilities for the sector.

Source: [Enterprise IT Planet](#)

8 Alleged Bloods Members Are Indicted in D.C. Attack

Six men and two women who claim to be D.C. members of the 662 Boss Piru gang, a subset of the Bloods, have been indicted on charges of kidnapping, assault and forcing a teenage member to have sex with four men in June 2008. According to court papers, the teen was allegedly a member attempting to leave the gang. Both the Bloods and Crips have been linked to violence in the National Capitol Region within recent months, but authorities are unsure of the actual numbers of East Coast members and the relationship between the local sects and the original West Coast organizations.

Source: [Washington Post](#)

Gang Suspect Charged in Arson Attempt

An 18-year-old Winchester man has been charged in an arson attempt on Saturday, September 6, that may have been gang-related. The residential fire, which caused only minor damage and no injuries, is believed to be the result of a feud between members of the Bloods and Surenos gangs. Officers had responded to a fight between the two groups on Friday night; on the following day, two members of a group tried to retaliate by setting the fire using two brown beer bottles filled with gasoline and a lit fuse. On Monday, authorities confiscated a chain saw and two gasoline cans from a residence connected to the incidents. According to court documents, the two groups have been fighting regularly.

Source: [Winchester Star](#)

Police Clamp Down on Gang Activity in Franklin County

The Rocky Mount Police Department, with assistance from the County SWAT Team, Franklin County Sheriff's Department, and Virginia State Police, searched two residences on Byrd Lane September 11 to gather information about suspected gang activity in the town. Items recovered in the searches included documents, clothing and photographs with potential gang linkages. According to Rocky Mount Police Chief, suspected gang-related activities in Rocky Mount during the past several years include narcotics violations, intimidation, thefts and assaults.

Source: [Franklin News Post](#)