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Surface Transportation & Public Transportation ISAC Transit & Rail Intelligence Awareness Daily Report (TRIAD)

November 27, 2023

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AND RESILIENCE (CISR) MONTH

November is Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience (CISR) Month

Each year, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) leads the national recognition of Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience (CISR) Month in November. This annual effort focuses on educating and engaging all levels of government, infrastructure owners and operators, and the American public about critical infrastructure's vital role in the nation's well-being and why it is important to strengthen critical infrastructure security and resilience. Throughout November, the ISAC's reports will include a section dedicated to CISR Month with helpful information and resources.

Training and Exercises

Training and exercise improve security and resilience. CISA Tabletop Exercise Packages (CTEPs) are a comprehensive set of resources designed to assist stakeholders in conducting their own exercises. Partners can use CTEPs to initiate discussions within their organizations about their ability to address a variety of threat scenarios. Each package is customizable and includes template exercise objectives, scenarios, and discussion questions, as well as a collection of references and resources. Available scenarios cover a broad array of physical security and cybersecurity topics, including natural disasters, pandemics, civil disturbances, vehicle ramming, active assailants, Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), insider threats, ransomware, phishing, Industrial Control System (ICS) compromise, and cyber-physical convergence. CTEPs also provide scenario and module questions to discuss pre-incident information and intelligence sharing, incident response, and post-incident recovery. <https://www.cisa.gov/resources-tools/services/cisa-tabletop-exercise-packages>

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY & INCIDENT REPORTS

Man Fatally Shot 2 People At Random At Arizona Bus Stop, Police Say

Associated Press, 11/21/2023

[Glendale, Arizona] Police have arrested a man accused of fatally shooting two men at random at a bus stop in the Phoenix suburb of Glendale, authorities said Tuesday. Dominic Celaya, 26, was booked into jail Monday on two counts of first-degree murder and two counts of unlawful discharge of a firearm. According to charging documents, Celaya's girlfriend told police the couple got into an argument that

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afternoon while in the car. He got out of the car, walked across the street and fired shots into the air, police said. Several witnesses say that is when they saw him shoot two men at the bus stop.

<https://apnews.com/article/glendale-arizona-bus-stop-shooting-e305deca0bc7eff6e46720a506978ecc>

Elderly Man Shot Near DTLA Bus Stop

2Urban Girls, 11/23/2023

[Los Angeles, California] A 70-year old man was hospitalized Thursday after he was shot in the Westlake area of Los Angeles. Officers from the Los Angeles Police Department's Rampart Division responded to a 911 call at 12:05 a.m. to Beverly Boulevard and Park View Street, where witnesses told them a suspect approached the victim near a bus stop and shot him, according to an LAPD spokesman. The victim was taken to a hospital in an unknown condition. The suspect ran away in an unknown direction.

<https://2urbangirls.com/2023/11/elderly-man-shot-near-dtla-bus-stop/>

Bus Rider, 60, Stabbed And Beaten With His Cane At Brooklyn Stop: NYPD

PIX 11, 11/26/2023

[Brooklyn, New York] A 60-year-old bus rider was repeatedly stabbed in the back and beaten with his cane at a Brooklyn bus stop earlier this month, police said Sunday. The bus rider got into a fight with a man and woman aboard the B12 before the man hit the victim in the head at around noon on Nov. 15, according to the NYPD. The suspects then attacked the man when all three got off the bus near Fulton Street and Alabama Avenue. The woman stabbed the victim three times in the back with a knife while her accomplice grabbed the victim's cane and hit him over the head, police said. The victim was taken to the hospital for treatment. <https://pix11.com/news/local-news/brooklyn/bus-rider-60-stabbed-and-beaten-with-his-own-cane-at-brooklyn-stop-nypd/>

Police Seek 3 Accused Of Throwing Ice At Train Conductor In Queens

CBS, 11/25/2023

[Queens, New York] Police are looking for three people accused of throwing ice at an MTA train conductor. It happened on Nov. 18 around 2 p.m. Investigators say the trio hit the worker in the face with the ice near the Woodhaven Boulevard station in Queens. The conductor, a 49-year-old woman, was taken to a local hospital with minor injuries. According to an internal MTA security report obtained by CBS New York, 110 transit workers were assaulted in the first eight months of 2023. That's a 39% increase over the same period last year. <https://www.cbsnews.com/newyork/news/ice-thrown-at-train-conductor-queens-mta/>

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TERRORISM & EXTREMISM

US Reviewing Possible 'Terrorist' Designations For Houthis

Reuters, 11/21/2023

The United States is reviewing "potential terrorist designations" for Yemen's Houthi rebel group in response to its seizure of a cargo ship, White House national security spokesperson John Kirby said on Tuesday. Kirby's comment was significant because one of the Biden administration's first acts after taking office in January 2021 was revoking terrorist designations of the Houthis over fears the sanctions they carried could worsen Yemen's humanitarian crisis. The Iran-backed Houthis, who have been sending drones and long-range missiles at Israel in solidarity with Hamas, seized the *Galaxy Leader* cargo ship on Sunday in the southern Red Sea, describing it as Israeli-owned. Kirby called the Houthis' seizure of the vessel a "flagrant violation of international law" in which "Iran is complicit."

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us-reviewing-possible-terrorist-designations-houthis-2023-11-21/>

ANALYST COMMENTARY: On 19 November 2023, Houthi rebels hijacked the *Galaxy Leader*, a 620-foot-long roll on/roll off vehicle transport vessel that is owned by an Israeli billionaire, in the Red Sea, near Yemen. The hijackers used helicopters to board the *Galaxy Leader* and took the vessel and its 25-man crew to the Houthi-occupied port city of Hodeida, Yemen, where the ship and crew remain captive. In response to the hijacking, the U.S. government claimed the Houthis had committed a "flagrant violation of international law" in which "Iran is complicit," and White House spokesperson John Kirby announced that, "In light of this, we have begun a review of potential terrorist designations and we will be considering other options as well with our allies and partners as well." On 26 November 2023, a second ship, the *M/V Central Park*, an Israeli-owned chemical tanker, was boarded by hijackers off the coast of Yemen in the Gulf of Aden; however, a U.S. naval vessel, the *USS Mason*, responded to *Central Park's* distress call and was able to disrupt the hijacking and capture the attackers, whose identities and allegiance has not released. Immediately after the disrupted hijacking on 26 November 2023, two surface to surface ballistic missiles were fired from Houthi controlled Yemen towards the *Central Park* and the *Mason*, though both missiles impacted the water approximately 10 miles from the ships and nobody was injured. The Yemeni government in Aden has claimed that the Houthis are responsible for the second attempted hijacking, though the Houthis have not claimed responsibility.

Ohio Walmart Shooting Suspect Motivated By Racial Extremism: FBI

ABC, 11/22/2023

[Beavercreek, Ohio] The man who opened fire at a Beavercreek Walmart and wounded four people, may have been at least partially motivated by "racially or ethnically motivated violent," ideologies, the FBI said Wednesday. Investigators said they are still going through evidence, including the journals of attacker Benjamin Charles Jones, and are still probing Monday's incident. Around 8:36 p.m. the gunman entered the Walmart and shot four people, who were shopping at the time, currently identified as two

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Black women, a white woman and a white man, according to the FBI. The victims were all transported to local hospitals, three were in critical condition and a fourth had non-life-threatening injuries. When officers arrived at the store at 8:42 p.m. they found the gunman dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, police said. The FBI said the 20-year-old man legally bought the .45 caliber handgun on Nov. 18 from a store in the Dayton area. <https://abcnews.go.com/US/ohio-walmart-shooting-suspect-motivated-racial-extremism-fbi>

SECURITY & SAFETY AWARENESS

Suspect Arrested After Three Men Of Palestinian Descent Shot In Vermont *BBC, 11/27/2023*

[Vermont] A 48-year-old man has been arrested over the shooting of three men of Palestinian descent in Vermont. Jason J Eaton was taken into custody on Sunday near the site of the shooting in Burlington, police said. They added that officers later searched his home. Hisham Awartani, Tahseen Ahmed and Kinnan Abdalhamid were attacked near the University of Vermont on Saturday. The men were speaking Arabic and two were wearing keffiyeh - a traditional scarf - when they were shot. The three men, who are all aged 20, were visiting the home of one of their relatives over the Thanksgiving holiday when a white man confronted them with a gun outside the property, police said. He allegedly fired at least four rounds at them without speaking and then fled. Two of the victims were shot in the torso while the third was hit in his lower extremities. Two are in a stable condition, police said, while the third "sustained much more serious injuries". <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-67539809>

Poll: 'Very Few' Drivers Feel Safe On Mass. Roads And Rails *Worcester Telegram & Gazette, 11/20/2023*

[Massachusetts] Nearly four years post-pandemic, traffic has returned to Massachusetts' roads in a big way. The concept of the morning or evening commute has been transformed into a consistent glow of break lights that last throughout the day. A new poll from the Mass Inc. Polling Group reveals the majority of Massachusetts residents are not only feeling the impacts of the return of traffic — they also feel unsafe while using the state's roads and rails. Looking at the results of nearly 1,400 Massachusetts residents, more than 50% feel as though traffic in their region is worse than before the global pandemic. Among the top concerns on the roads: Reckless or speeding drivers, distracted drivers and road rage. It isn't just the roads causing the transportation turmoil, but the rails too. More than 70% of transit riders reported feeling unsafe because of crime and violence, 54% cited overcrowding and more than 40% cited old or broken transit vehicles or stations. <https://www.telegram.com/story/news/local/2023/11/20/new-poll-finds-ma-drivers-feel-unsafe-on-roads-public-transportation/71657612007/>

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'Severe Disruption' To Public Transport As Dublin Bus And Luas Services Suspended Due To Riots

The Journal, 11/23/2023

[Dublin, Ireland] Public transport services in Dublin city center have been “severely disrupted” due to the riots that have broken out this evening. All Luas and Dublin Bus services have been suspended following the riots that broke out following the stabbing of three children and a woman on Parnell Square this afternoon. The riots, which began close to the scene of the crime and which then spread across Dublin’s city center, were sparked by groups of people heckling gardaí at the scene and were spurred on by anti-immigration posts on social media which called on people to assemble in protest at what had happened. Irish rail services are operating but are not calling at Tara Street station. The National Bus and Rail Union has instructed all buses in Dublin to withdraw services with “immediate effect”. The union’s General Secretary Dermot O’Leary said that “frontline transport workers’ health and safety is first priority”, condemning the “appalling violence” in the city center. <https://www.thejournal.ie/public-transport-bus-luas-cancelled-riots-6231314-Nov2023/>

DOE Releases RFI to Achieve Rail Sector Decarbonization

Railway Age, 11/22/2023

Recognizing that the rail sector generates 2% of U.S. transportation greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the Department of Energy (DOE) on Nov. 17 released a Request for Information (RFI) to understand applicable decarbonization strategies. According to DOE, the purpose of the RFI, titled Progression to Net-Zero Emission Propulsion Technologies for the Rail Sector, is to “solicit feedback from industry, academia, research laboratories, government agencies, other stakeholders, and the public on issues related to alternative propulsion technology advancement within the rail sector and achieving net-zero GHG emissions.” The Biden-Harris Administration, DOE says, has established “ambitious goals to address global climate change and is committed to developing and implementing robust and actionable transportation decarbonization strategies.” <https://www.railwayage.com/regulatory/doe-releases-rfi-to-achieve-rail-sector-decarbonization/>

ANALYST COMMENTARY: In January 2023, the Department of Energy (DOE), in collaboration with the Department of Transportation (DOT), the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), released a plan titled the “U.S. National Blueprint for Transportation Decarbonization - A Joint Strategy to Transform Transportation,” which outlined the administration’s goal of eliminating all emissions from the transportation sector. The plan hopes to achieve a “100% clean electrical grid by 2035 and net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.” The plan is currently based on five guiding principles: Implement Bold Actions to Achieve Measurable Results; Embrace Creative Solutions Across the Transportation System; Ensure Safety, Equity, and Access; and Increase Collaboration and Establish U.S. Leadership. The plan hopes to “increase convenience” by restructuring communities around work and transportation hubs, and encouraging people to use public transportation, or walking and cycle. The plan ultimately suggests expanding public

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transportation options and “transitioning to clean options” by innovating and then moving to zero-emission conveyances. Administration officials have requested input from stakeholders regarding the plan, and are seeking answers to the following two questions: “Which alternative rail propulsion technologies are most promising technically and economically, and what is the timeline for the rail sector to transition to net-zero emission technologies?” Stakeholders have until 12 January 2024 to provide input. The Request for Information (RFI) from stakeholders coincides with the United Nations ‘World Sustainable Transport Day,’ which took place on 26 November 2023 and promoted transitioning from aviation to ground-based rail transportation to reduce emissions. Paul Tuohy, from the transport charity ‘Campaign for Better Transport,’ said, “Governments must urgently work to reduce emissions by increasing investment in sustainable transport and encouraging its use.” The joint strategy can be viewed at: <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2023-01/the-us-national-blueprint-for-transportation-decarbonization.pdf>

Threat from Within? Unreformed Counterterrorism Infrastructure Raises Concerns About Misuse *Homeland Security Today, 11/21/2023*

As violence escalates in the Middle East, ordinary Muslim Americans watch in fear. The sprawling post-9/11 surveillance and counterterrorism architecture is ramping up again in response to the Israel-Hamas War, protests in the United States, and fears of an increased terrorist attacks. Persistent failures to reform overly broad U.S. counterterrorism laws and policies suggest that safeguards against rights abuses may well prove inadequate. ... FBI Director Christopher Wray told the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee that the violence in the region had raised the potential for an attack in the United States to “a whole other level,” comparing it to the ISIS-inspired attacks of the previous decade. DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas similarly raised the alarm about foreign terrorist groups, including al-Qaeda and Iranian-backed Lebanese Hezbollah, executing attacks on U.S. soil. <https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/counterterrorism/threat-from-within-unreformed-counterterrorism-infrastructure-raises-concerns-about-misuse/>

ANALYST COMMENTARY: On 31 October 2023, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director Christopher Wray told the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee that the violence in the [Middle East] region had raised the potential for an attack in the United States to “a whole other level,” comparing it to the threat posed by Islamic State Group (ISG)-inspired attacks of the previous decade. This conclusion was supported by the Secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkas. To protect the homeland, Wray said the FBI has “ramped up efforts to share intelligence with local law enforcement.” Intelligence collection efforts are intended to reduce the likelihood of hate crimes directed at any community or a terrorist attack against a soft target here in the homeland. On 30 October 2023, a Nevada resident called and threatened Nevada Senator Jacky Rosen due to grievances the caller had regarding the United States' support of Israel. Law enforcement officials charged with protecting the public are often challenged with finding a balance between intelligence gathering to thwart potential attacks, and mitigating threats like the one made to Senator Rosen,

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while simultaneously protecting individual liberty, privacy, and non-threatening free speech. During periods of heightened intelligence collection, privacy concerns often arise, and some faith-based, community, and political groups with non-criminal interests in the developments following the attack on Israel are concerned that they may be unfairly targeted by government intelligence gathering efforts. For further information, the Attorney General's Guidelines for Domestic FBI operations, which establishes how the FBI can efficiently "conduct its investigations and other activities in a lawful and reasonable manner that respects liberty and privacy and avoids unnecessary intrusions into the lives of law-abiding people," can be viewed at: <https://www.justice.gov/archive/opa/docs/guidelines.pdf>

CYBERSECURITY

Hacking Employers and Seeking Employment: Two Job-Related Campaigns Bear Hallmarks of North Korean Threat Actors

Unit 42, 11/21/2023

Unit 42 researchers recently discovered two separate campaigns targeting job-seeking activities linked to state-sponsored threat actors associated with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), commonly known as North Korea. We call the first campaign "Contagious Interview," where threat actors pose as employers (often anonymously or with vague identities) to lure software developers into installing malware through the interview process. This malware creates the potential for various types of theft. We attribute with moderate confidence that Contagious Interview is run by a North Korea state-sponsored threat actor. We call the second campaign "Wagemole," where threat actors seek unauthorized employment with organizations based in the US and other parts of the world, with potential for both financial gain and espionage. <https://unit42.paloaltonetworks.com/two-campaigns-by-north-korea-bad-actors-target-job-hunters/>

ANALYST COMMENTARY: Researchers from Palo Alto Networks have observed two new campaigns from state-sponsored threat actors associated with North Korea that target job seekers. The first campaign, dubbed "Contagious Interview," lures software developers into malicious interviews by posing as potential employers. The objective is digital currency theft. Researchers believe the campaign started in late 2022 and is still a "consistent threat." The second campaign, called "Wagemole," targets employers in the United States and other parts of the world. The Department of State, the Department of the Treasury, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) issued an alert in 2022 warning organizations of North Korean threat actors posing as remote workers, specifically in the IT field. North Korea has attempted to secure remote IT work throughout the U.S., Europe, and East Asia to help pay for its development of nuclear and ballistic missile programs. The recent rise in remote work and demand for workers specializing in software and mobile application development has allowed North Korean nationals to gain employment by using virtual private networks (VPN), which allows the workers to appear as if they are from a more favorable nation. They also use falsified

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or stolen documents such as passports, social security cards, work visas, high school diplomas, and bank statements to create a false persona to obtain work. To mitigate this, organizations are urged to reject low-quality images submitted to provide verification of identity, require submission of a video verifying the identity or conduct a video interview to verify identity, verify employment and higher education history through a search engine or other business database, and to be wary of changing contact information.

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