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

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SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY & INCIDENT REPORTS

Madison, Wisconsin, School Shooting Leaves 2 Dead, 6 Injured; Juvenile Suspect Dead
FOX News, 12/16/2024

[Madison, Wisconsin] Police identified the shooter who they said opened fire inside a private Christian school in Madison, Wisconsin, killing a teacher and teen student and injuring six others on Monday. Madison Police Chief Shon Barnes said 15-year-old Natalie Rupnow, who goes by Samantha, opened fire inside Abundant Life Christian School. Barnes said the shooting took place during study hall with multiple grades in the room. Police said evidence suggests the shooter died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Barnes added that officials are speaking with Rupnow's father, who is cooperating with the police. Barnes said a second-grade student called 911 to report the shooting.
https://www.foxnews.com/us/madison-wisconsin-police-say-multiple-people-injured-shooting-abundant-life-christian-school

ANALYST COMMENTARY: The Abundant Life Christian School is a K-12 private School in Madison Wisconsin. On 16 December 2024 at approximately 10:57 a.m., a 15-year-old female student entered a classroom armed with a pistol and opened fire, killing a student and a teacher and injuring six others. The suspect then took her own life. The classroom contained students from multiple grades and a second-grade student called 911 to report the shooting which had concluded before the arrival of law enforcement. A motive for the attack has not yet been determined. The Associated Press reports Shon Barnes, the police chief in Madison as saying "Investigators were aware of a 'manifesto,' if you want to call it that, or some type of letter posted by someone who might have known the shooter, 15-year-old student. Cellular phone records, social media, and other digital and physical evidence are being analyzed to help reconstruct and understand what happened. In 2022, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), produced a K-12 School Security Guide that is intended to assist schools of any size to utilize "cost-effective solutions that complement and integrate with a school's protection and mitigation capabilities. It is intended to support the unique needs of each school, regardless of its geographical context and level of maturity when it comes to the school security planning process." The CISA School Security Guide can be found at: https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/2022-11/k12-school-security-guide-3rd-edition-022022-508.pdf. The United States Secret Service published an analysis of plots against schools and a guide to "Averting Targeted School Violence" that stresses that "Individuals contemplating violence often telegraph their

intent and exhibit observable behaviors." If people become aware of someone who may be escalating toward violence and report that behavior, it may be possible to intervene and avert a tragedy. The Secret Service Analysis can be viewed at https://www.secretservice.gov/sites/default/files/reports/2021-03/USSS%20Averting%20Targeted%20School%20Violence.2021.03.pdf. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) points out that most active attacks, especially those in schools or the workplace, continue until the assailant is forcibly stopped and are often over before the police arrive. FEMA has a suite of tools and training materials to prepare for active shooters and violence. The FEMA training page called "You Are The Help Until Help Arrives," provides several tools and steps to help save lives and can be viewed at: https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/until-help-arrives.

BART 'Equipment Problem,' Rainfall Snarl Morning Commute
KALW, 12/16/2024

[Bay Area, California] The start of this week's commute on BART was slowed by an equipment problem that caused delays earlier this morning on the Red Line. According to BART, a train was removed from service for an equipment problem, causing delays on the SFO line in the Antioch, Richmond, SFO and Millbrae directions. Trains were already running slower due to showers across the Bay Area. The transit agency issued an advisory shortly after 6:30 this morning about a problem with trackside equipment. Trains on BART's Red Line from Richmond to Millbrae were running again Monday morning after a disabled train in San Bruno halted service for about two hours. https://www.kalw.org/bay-area-news/2024-12-16/bart-equipment-problem-rainfall-snarl-morning-commute

Man Shot On MTA Bus In Brownsville
Brooklyn Eagle, 12/16/2024

[Brooklyn, New York] A 25-year-old man was shot on a Brownsville MTA bus early Sunday morning, according to the NYPD. The bus was traveling west on Rockaway Avenue around 1:30 a.m. when shots were fired. CBS News reports the man was taken to a hospital in stable condition after being struck in the neck. The NYPS is investigating the incident and no arrests have yet been made. https://brooklyneagle.com/articles/2024/12/16/man-shot-on-mta-bus-in-brownsville/

Two Killed And Three Injured As Vehicles Collide, Bus Stop Struck In Minneapolis
Bring Me The News, 12/16/2024

[Minneapolis, Minnesota] Two women were killed and three people were injured in an incident in north Minneapolis that saw two vehicles collide, with one then striking a bus shelter. The collision was reported at around 10:20 a.m., with a driving heading north on Emerson Avenue North striking a vehicle that was heading east on 26th Avenue North. The eastbound vehicle was sent crashing into the bus shelter. A woman in the vehicle died at the scene, while the other was taken to North Memorial Healthcare Hospital, where she later died. A man and a woman in the northbound vehicle were hospitalized with life-threatening injuries, while a 17-year-old boy who was waiting for a bus to go to

school suffered non-life-threatening injuries. In a statement, Minneapolis PD says "speed is a likely a contributing factor in this crash." No arrests have been made at this time. https://bringmethenews.com/minnesota-news/two-killed-and-three-injured-as-vehicles-collide-bus-stop-struck-in-minneapolis

TERRORISM & EXTREMISM

Fighting Terrorism: Council Approves Conclusions On Future Priorities For Countering Terrorism
Council of the European Union, 12/12/2024

[Europe] Terrorism and violent extremism continue to pose a significant threat to the EU and its member states. Today the Council approved the first of two sets of conclusions on strengthening joint counterterrorism efforts. The conclusions set strategic goals and highlight key areas where increased efforts are needed to enhance operational efficiency. The conclusions aim to shape EU counterterrorism policies and measures for the next five years. To further enhance counterterrorism measures, on 16 December 2024, the Council will approve conclusions on reinforcing external-internal connections in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism. Sándor Pintér, Hungarian Minister for Home Affairs stated, "The fight against terrorism in the EU is a joint effort of all member states. From information sharing and border security to hindering terrorist financing and preventing radicalization, EU countries have a range of common tools at their disposal to keep citizens safe." https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/12/12/fighting-terrorism-council-approves-conclusions-on-future-priorities-for-countering-terrorism/

ANALYST COMMENTARY: As in the U.S., the European Union (EU) faces a diverse terrorist threat comprised of single and blended issue independent lone actors and extremists inspired by or directly connected to a broad range of officially designated domestic and foreign terrorist organizations. However, the EU's relative geographic proximity to numerous external threats exacerbates the potential risk, and the jurisdictional realities and resource considerations are also far more complex. As Daniel Byman, Director of the Warfare, Irregular Threats, and Terrorism Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), explains, "Terrorists can move freely across Europe's open borders, but security services cannot." Security policies and information sharing remain inconsistent, and some members lack the resources, expertise, or capability to address existing threats adequately. Per Byman, "As long as European security performance is uneven, strong countries will be vulnerable to mistakes or weak efforts by those European countries unwilling to dedicate the necessary resources or establish a proper counterterrorism framework." Ultimately, a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. Past European attacks already demonstrated threat actors can exploit existing security gaps to deadly effect.

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Virginia Man Convicted For Crypto Financing Scheme To ISIS
Department of Justice, 12/16/2024

[Springfield, Virgina] A jury convicted Mohammed Azharuddin Chhipa, 35, of Springfield, Virginia, on Dec. 13 for charges relating to his efforts to provide material support to the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS), a foreign terrorist organization. According to court records and evidence presented at trial, from at least October 2019 through October 2022, Chhipa collected and sent money to female ISIS members in Syria to benefit ISIS in various ways, including by financing the escape of female ISIS members from prison camps and supporting ISIS fighters. Chhipa would raise funds online on various social media accounts. He would receive electronic transfers of funds and travel hundreds of miles to collect funds by hand. He would then convert the money to cryptocurrency and send it to Turkey, where it was smuggled to ISIS members in Syria. https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/virginia-man-convicted-crypto-financing-scheme-isis

ANALYST COMMENTARY: Mohammed Azharuddin Chhipa, 35, a naturalized U.S. citizen from India who was living in Virginia, worked with a British-born ISIS member residing in Syria who was involved in raising funds for prison escapes, terrorist attacks, and fighters for the Islamic State Group (ISG), according to the Department of Justice. Investigators determined that Chhipa sent over $185,000 in cryptocurrency to the ISG. Cryptocurrency is a commonly used tool for laundering money and financing terrorism. The United Nations (UN) Financial Action Task Force (FATF), identifies best practices for international monetary policy to combat terrorism financing, money laundering, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The FATF issued 40 recommendations that are designed to detect and disrupt financial transactions that fuel crime and terrorism and punish those responsible for illegal activity. Recommendation #5 specifically requires countries to criminalize terrorist financing. On 27 October 2023, FATF published a report on "Crowdfunding for Terrorism Financing" which examines how terrorist organizations like the ISG use crowdfunding, not-for-profit organizations, and cryptocurrency to raise money for their attacks. ABC News reported that in this case, Chhipa collected donations from supporters and converted the cash he obtained into bitcoin which was then deposited to banks in Turkey for use by the ISG. ABC News also reported that according to court documents, Chhipa is unofficially 'married' to Allison Fluke-Ekren, an American from Kansas who is serving a 20-year prison sentence. In 2023, Fluke-Ekren pleaded guilty to organizing and leading the 'Khatiba Nusaybah,' a battalion in the ISG in which roughly 100 women and girls learned how to use automatic weapons and detonate grenades and suicide belts. Following his conviction on terrorism charges, Chippa is scheduled for sentencing in May 2024.

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SECURITY & SAFETY AWARENESS

DOD Announces Strategy For Countering Unmanned Systems
Homeland Security Today, 12/10/2024

[Washington D.C.] On December 2 Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III signed a classified Strategy for Countering Unmanned Systems. The strategy unifies the Department's approach to countering these systems that looks across domains, characteristics, and timeframes. Unmanned systems pose both an urgent and enduring threat to U.S. personnel, facilities, and assets overseas. Unmanned aerial systems, most commonly known as drones, pose the most significant threat at this time and increasingly in the US homeland. These threats are changing how wars are fought. By producing a singular Strategy for Countering Unmanned Systems, the Secretary and the Department are orienting around a common understanding of the challenge and a shared approach to addressing it. https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/counterterrorism/dod-announces-strategy-for-countering-unmanned-systems/

CO: RTD Ramps Up K-9 Force To Improve Safety, Security
Mass Transit, 12/16/2024

[Denver, Colorado] The Regional Transportation District is deploying more counterterrorism dogs for station sweeps and inspections on buses and trains, the latest effort to ramp up security and encourage riders to return. The expanded K-9 capacity — RTD previously had one dog — is part of a security campaign to boost security on public transit around metro Denver as violence has spilled into RTD buses and trains. RTD's annual ridership has decreased from 106 million in 2019 to around 65 million. RTD directors face a tough challenge because the bus and train service area spans 2,342 square miles across eight counties, one of the largest transit service areas in the nation. It's impossible to cover every route. https://www.masstransitmag.com/safety-security/news/55249753/co-rtd-ramps-up-k-9-force-to-improve-safety-security

Bus Stops Closed Until Further Notice At Troubled Seattle Intersection
KOMO, 12/16/2024

[Seattle, Washington] King County Metro has announced the immediate closure of the bus stops at the intersection of 12th Avenue and Jackson Street, citing illegal activity and safety concerns for riders and bus drivers. The intersection has been a trouble spot for years and is known for open drug use, stolen goods sales, and recently was the scene of a mass stabbing. "Due to the current daily environment in the surrounding area, our customers are often unable to comfortably use the stops to board or exit," Metro said in a statement. "As a result of these conditions, Metro made the difficult decision to temporarily

suspend serving all the stops at 12th Avenue South and South Jackson Street in all directions." https://komonews.com/news/local/bus-stops-closed-until-further-notice-at-troubled-seattle-intersection-illegal-activity-safety-concerns-closure-king-county-metro-public-transportation-open-drug-use-theft-crime-mass-stabbing-scene

ADOT Calls Executive Leadership Team For Proposed Rail Corridor
RT&S, 12/11/2024

[Phoenix, Arizona] The Arizona Department of Transportation has announced an Executive Leadership Team to guide the study the future of passenger rail service between Phoenix and Tucson. This Team consists of the Governor's Office, the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), Pima Association of Governments (PAG), Sun Corridor Metropolitan Planning Organization, ADOT and the metropolitan planning organizations in Pinal, Pima, and Maricopa counties. This team will make sure that planning for future passenger rail service aligns with "regional priorities." Governor Katie Hobbs stated, "Investing in passenger rail between Phoenix and Tucson holds enormous promise for economic growth and employment, and would mean more transportation options for more Arizonans. https://www.rtands.com/passenger/adot-calls-executive-leadership-team-for-proposed-rail-corridor/

CYBERSECURITY

Federal CIO Releases 2024 Impact Report Highlighting Cybersecurity, Modernization, And AI Achievements
Homeland Security Today, 12/17/2024

[Washington D.C.] The Office of the Federal Chief Information Officer (OFCIO) has released its 2024 Impact Report, showcasing key accomplishments in federal technology policy, cybersecurity, and digital service delivery. The report outlines significant strides in modernizing federal IT infrastructure, enhancing cybersecurity, and harnessing emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) to better serve the American people. Key Highlights from the Report include Strengthening Cybersecurity: In response to evolving cyber threats, the administration introduced comprehensive measures, including implementing Zero Trust principles and modernizing software security practices. Initiatives like Executive Order 14028 on cybersecurity and the Federal Zero Trust Strategy (M-22-09) have resulted in notable progress. https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/cybersecurity/federal-cio-releases-2024-impact-report-highlighting-cybersecurity-modernization-and-ai-achievements/

Businesses Plagued By Constant Stream Of Malicious Emails
Help Net Security, 12/9/2024

36.9% of all emails received by businesses (20.5 billion) in 2024 were unwanted, according to Hornetsecurity's analysis of 55.6+ billion emails processed through their security services between

November 1, 2023 and October 31, 2024 – and 2.3% of those contained malicious content, totaling 427.8 million emails. Once again, phishing remains the most prevalent form of attack, responsible for a third of all cyber-attacks in 2024. This was confirmed by the analysis of 55.6 billion emails, showing that phishing remains a top concern consistently year over year. Malicious URLs and advanced fee scams were responsible for 22.7% and 6.4% respectively. "These findings highlight both progress and new challenges in the fight against cyber threats. https://www.helpnetsecurity.com/2024/12/09/malicious-emails-inboxes/

ANALYST COMMENTARY: Hornetsecurity's report emphasizes that while malicious attachments are declining, reverse-proxy credential theft and malicious URLs are stepping up as key threats. Tools like Evilginx have made it far too easy for attackers to intercept login credentials in real-time, even bypassing two-factor authentication (2FA)—a worrying trend for businesses relying on legacy security measures. The data points to a broader shift in tactics: social engineering is becoming more targeted and effective, leveraging trust in major brands like DHL, Netflix, and Mastercard. Organizations must recognize that email threats are evolving beyond spam filters; relying solely on anti-virus and perimeter defenses won't cut it. This shows us the growing necessity for advanced email security solutions capable of detecting suspicious behavior, real-time link analysis, and sandboxing. But technology alone isn't enough. Businesses must adopt a zero-trust approach combined with comprehensive user training. Phishing awareness programs need to go beyond generic tips and include simulated phishing campaigns that mimic modern threats. Additionally, IT teams should push for adaptive multi-factor authentication (MFA) mechanisms, such as hardware tokens or biometric solutions, which reduce the risk of reverse-proxy attacks bypassing MFA codes. Cybersecurity strategies must evolve in tandem with these shifting attack vectors—whether through enhanced user training, proactive threat hunting, or implementing a robust email security stack that adapts to emerging threats like credential interception.