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OVER-THE-ROAD-BUS INTELLIGENCE AWARENESS DAILY (OTRBIAD) REPORT

January 2, 2025

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY & INCIDENT REPORTS

Suspect in Custody After Man Critically Injured When Pushed onto Chelsea Subway Tracks

1010 WINS, 12/31/2024

[New York] Police have arrested a suspect after a man was shoved onto the tracks at a Chelsea subway station on Tuesday afternoon and struck by an oncoming train, leaving him in critical condition. A 45-year-old man was hit by a southbound 1 train at the 18th Street subway station at about 1:35 p.m., police said. Sources confirmed to 1010 WINS that he was pushed onto the tracks. The victim was taken to NYC Health + Hospitals/Bellevue in critical but stable condition, officials said. The circumstances surrounding the attack were not immediately clear, but police have placed a suspect under arrest. Charges against the alleged assailant are pending. <https://www.audacy.com/1010wins/news/local/man-shoved-onto-subway-tracks-in-chelsea-struck-by-train>

Police Take Suspect into Custody After Bus Barricade Near Downtown Las Vegas

KVVU, 1/1/2025

[Las Vegas, Nevada] A suspect was taken into custody after a barricade incident on a bus Wednesday evening. Police were on scene near Fremont Street and Charleston Boulevard since 5:24 p.m. LVMPD SWAT and crisis negotiators responded. Police closed roads from Fremont to Oakey to respond to the barricade. At 7:05 p.m., police said the suspect was taken into custody without further incident. <https://www.fox5vegas.com/2025/01/02/man-barricaded-bus-near-fremont-charleston-las-vegas-police-say/>

1 Dead, 7 Injured After Explosion in Cybertruck Outside Trump's Las Vegas Hotel

KVVU, 1/1/2025

[Las Vegas, Nevada] One person is dead and seven others are injured after a car exploded near the Trump International Hotel Wednesday morning. Sources within the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department tell FOX5 that multiple agencies are investigating a possible connection between this incident and the terror attack in New Orleans that killed 15 people. According to police, the explosion occurred in the valet area of the hotel around 8:40 a.m. after the car pulled in. Several fireworks and gas canisters were found inside the vehicle, which did not explode. The fire has since been put out by Clark

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County firefighters, but sources add that the suspect's body was so badly burned that they cannot identify their race. <https://www.fox5vegas.com/2025/01/01/police-activity-closes-road-near-trump-tower-las-vegas-strip/>

Stabbing Suspect on The Run in NYC After Knifing Man on Subway Train

Daily Mail, 1/1/2025

[New York] A suspect is on the loose after allegedly stabbing someone on the New York City subway on New Year's Day - as the Big Apple sees a spike in transit crimes. An unidentified suspect fled the 14th Street Station in Lower Manhattan on Wednesday morning after allegedly stabbing the 31-year-old man on a northbound 2 train. The suspect has been described as a black man who was seen wearing a black puffer jacket, dark sweatpants, and carrying a red suitcase. The MTA confirmed police were responding to a 'disruptive' person at the station and told riders to expect delays on the red line. The suspect fled the station through the 12th Street and 7th Avenue exit. The victim sustained back injuries and was taken to Bellevue Hospital in stable condition, the spokesperson said.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14241635/stabbing-suspect-nyc-knifing-victim-subway.html>

TERRORISM & EXTREMISM

At Least 15 Dead, 35 Injured After Man 'Intentionally' Drives into New Year's Revelers In New Orleans

KVVU, 1/1/2025

[New Orleans, Louisiana] At least 15 people are dead and more than 35 are injured after a pickup truck plowed through a crowd in New Orleans' French Quarter early New Year's Day. The truck drove into a crowd around 3 a.m. Wednesday on Canal and Bourbon Streets. Authorities say Shamsud-Din Jabbar, 42, drove a truck through barricades intentionally at high speed into the crowd. After crashing into heavy machinery, Jabbar got out of the vehicle and began shooting at responding police officers, injuring two. They are both listed in stable condition. Jabbar, who authorities said was an Army veteran from Texas, was killed in the gunfire. New Orleans Police Chief Anne Kirkpatrick said Jabbar was "attempting to take out as many people in the path as possible." Authorities are also investigating possible improvised explosive devices at the scene, according to the FBI. <https://www.fox5vegas.com/2025/01/01/multiple-casualties-reported-after-vehicle-plows-through-crowd-new-orleans/>

ANALYST COMMENTARY: Shamsud-Din Jabbar, 42, rented an electric truck and outfitted it with a flag supporting the Islamic State Group (ISG), and drove it at high speed through a crowd of New Year's revelers on Bourbon Street in New Orleans, Louisiana, killing 15 people and injuring dozens. According to the White House, he posted videos on social media before the attack in which Jabbar indicated drawing inspiration from ISG and expressed "a desire to kill." Jabbar was born in the U.S. and was a resident of Texas. He served an enlistment in the U.S. Army, like Nidal Hasan, who, on 5 November 2009, walked into the Readiness Center on Fort Hood Army base in Texas and opened fire with a pistol,

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killing 13 people and wounding dozens. Both attackers were motivated by Islamic Jihadist ideology, but it remains unclear when their radicalization occurred. In the New Orleans attack, the Associated Press reported that law enforcement initially investigated the possibility that Jabbar had assistance during the planning or execution stages of the attack, as other improvised explosive devices were found elsewhere in New Orleans, separate from the truck, including two pipe bombs concealed within coolers and wired for remote detonation. Currently, Jabbar is the only known subject, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) believes he acted alone. Law enforcement is also investigating to determine if there is any connection between this incident and the Tesla Cybertruck that exploded and caught fire in front of Trump Tower in Las Vegas, Nevada, on the same day. The driver of the Cybertruck, an Army veteran from Colorado Springs, Colorado, reportedly worked on the same base as Jabbar. Both attacks' vehicles were also electric, rented out of state from the same company, and then driven to their destinations. However, it remains unclear whether the two events bore any direct connection. The use of electric vehicles is also noteworthy. The heavier curb weight of electric vehicles increases the kinetic energy when moving, and if the lithium batteries catch fire, they burn hotter and are much harder to extinguish.

Knife-Wielding Tren De Aragua Gangbangers Are Repeatedly Attacking Border Crossings in Desperate Move to Force Their Way into US Before Trump Takes Office

New York Post, 12/31/2024

[El Paso, Texas] Knife-wielding Tren de Aragua gang members are mobbing border crossings at El Paso, Texas, in an attempt to break into the US — and have said they will attack border guards who try to stop them, according to a shocking Texas law enforcement memo leaked to The Post. Last week, 20 of the Venezuelan gangbangers — armed with blades, tire irons and broken liquor bottles — tried to force their way into the US at a border gate, the missive from the Texas Department of Public Safety read. Another attempt to break through is expected on New Year's Day, the memo warned.

<https://nypost.com/2024/12/31/us-news/tren-de-aragua-members-attack-texas-border-crossings-trying-to-force-their-way-into-us/>

ANALYST COMMENTARY: In late 2023, authorities in Texas and Illinois announced the arrest of members of “Tren de Aragua” in Chicago, Illinois, and El Paso, Texas. In January 2024, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) acknowledged the violent Venezuelan gang was operating in the U.S. Then, in July 2024, the U.S. Government officially designated the Venezuelan criminal prison gang a Transnational Criminal Organization (TCO). In response, the U.S. government offered \$12 million in reward for the arrest of the gang’s leadership structure, issued sanctions against known members, and increased border screening measures to prevent additional members from entering the U.S. On 16 September 2024, Texas designated the gang as a foreign terrorist group, claiming they represented a “Tier 1” threat to the state. The Texas Governor claimed that “the group’s leaders have given members a ‘green light’ to fire on or attack law enforcement.” He directed Texas law enforcement agencies to create a joint task force to investigate the gang’s activities in Texas. The gang's name translates as

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'train of Aragua,' with Aragua being one of Venezuela's 23 states. It began in 2012 in Tocoron prison, which BBC News described as the gang's headquarters. Prisoners could reportedly roam freely inside the penitentiary, which had hotel-like facilities, housing for family and guests, a pool, a nightclub, and a mini zoo. The gang is currently spreading its criminal operations throughout the U.S., with a confirmed presence in eight states and a reported presence in ten others. According to the Counter Extremism Project, Tren de Aragua now operates in several Latin American countries, engaging in extortion, homicide, drug trafficking, and smuggling of people.

SECURITY & SAFETY AWARENESS

REAL ID Status for Domestic Air Travel

National Geographic, 12/30/2024

Starting in 2025, travelers will be impacted by international travel updates, as well as by changes in domestic flight ID rules for U.S. flyers. Domestic air travel in the United States changes on May 7, 2025, with the long-heralded introduction of the REAL ID. After multiple delays since the act was first introduced in 2007, the new federal law concerning the use of drivers' licenses and government-issued identification cards at airport security checks looks as though it will finally be implemented. These days, most newly issued ID cards are REAL ID-compliant, but travelers with older documents will need to check with their issuing state agency. More information about REAL ID in each state is available on the Department of Homeland Security website. The paperwork required to apply varies by state but will likely include proof of identity, status as a US resident or citizen, a Social Security number, and proof of a current address. Valid passports, of course, remain a legal form of identification for domestic and international travel. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/article/domestic-international-travel-updates>

Amtrak Cancels Miami Airport Train Service After Years of Delays

Railway Supply, 12/30/2024

[Miami, Florida] Amtrak shocked transportation officials by announcing it would never operate at Miami International Airport. Officials had invested millions to prepare the site, but Amtrak cited excessive costs. Rather than expanding to the airport, Amtrak will upgrade its existing Hialeah station. Construction begins in 2025 and is expected to continue through June 2028, improving local infrastructure. Amtrak's sudden withdrawal frustrated leaders who had worked for decades to integrate services at the Miami Intermodal Center (MIC). This transportation hub was designed to connect buses, rail, and car rentals in one location. Officials spent \$5.6 million rebuilding roads and crossings to accommodate Amtrak's long-distance trains. Despite these efforts, Amtrak decided to keep its southern terminus at Hialeah due to financial concerns. <https://www.railway.supply/en/amtrak-cancels-miami-airport-train-service-after-years-of-delays/>

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New Jersey Commuters Face Higher Tolls, Gas Tax and Public Transit Fares in 2025

WHYY, 12/31/2024

[New Jersey] Commuting in the Garden State will become more expensive starting in 2025. On Jan. 1, tolls on the New Jersey Turnpike, the Garden State Parkway and the Atlantic City Expressway will rise 3%. That translates to a 16-cent increase for an average trip within the state. But drivers traveling significant distances will pay a lot more because longer trips cost more in tolls. In addition to the toll hike, a 2.6 cent per gallon gas tax increase also takes effect on New Year's Day. The money from the gas tax hike will go toward the Transportation Trust Fund, which pays for all transportation infrastructure projects in the Garden State. <https://whyy.org/articles/new-jersey-tolls-public-transit-fares/>

What Truckers Should Know About NYC's Congestion Pricing Beginning Sunday, Jan. 5

Land Line, 12/30/2024

[New York] After clearing several regulatory and legal hurdles, not to mention a governor-mandated temporary pause, congestion pricing in New York City will begin this weekend. Beginning Sunday, Jan. 5, most vehicles will be charged a toll when entering the "congestion relief zone" in Manhattan. That zone includes local streets and avenues south of 60th Street. Truckers driving a multi-unit truck with an E-ZPass will be charged \$21.60 during the peak period, which will be 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekends. Rates will decrease by 75% overnight to \$5.40. Truck drivers will be charged each time they enter the congestion pricing zone, with no daily cap. <https://landline.media/what-truckers-should-know-about-nycs-congestion-pricing-beginning-sunday-jan-5/>

CYBERSECURITY

iOS Devices More Exposed to Phishing Than Android

Help Net Security, 12/26/2024

The report highlights insights behind a 17% increase QoQ (quarter on quarter) in enterprise-focused credential theft and phishing attempts, 32% increase QoQ in malicious app detections and a trend showing iOS devices are more exposed to phishing attacks than Android devices. In a series of multiple novel threat discoveries, researchers have disclosed a number of mobile surveillanceware tools developed by advanced persistent threat (APT) groups based in China and Russia... More than 106,000 malicious apps were detected on enterprise mobile devices, which can vary widely from trojan malware to sophisticated spyware. Globally, mobile phishing and malicious web content have become synonymous with business email compromise (BEC), MFA bypass attacks, executive impersonation, and vulnerability exploitation. These attacks are typically low cost and high reward, and for that reason have become the preferred initial step in the modern kill chain.

<https://www.helpnetsecurity.com/2024/12/26/mobile-devices-attacks/>

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ANALYST COMMENTARY: The Lookout report paints a stark picture of how mobile threats are increasingly integral to attackers' strategies to compromise enterprise systems. The use of mobile devices as a stepping-stone to infiltrate enterprise cloud environments stems from their ubiquity, the sensitive data they access, and their often weaker security postures compared to traditional endpoints. Nation-state actors' involvement—exemplified by advanced tools from APT groups like Gamaredon—adds a layer of complexity, as these threats often blend espionage and opportunistic cybercrime tactics. One striking takeaway is the evolving role of social engineering, particularly executive impersonation attacks. These rely on psychological manipulation, exploiting workplace dynamics to bypass technical defenses. Educating employees, especially those with access to sensitive data, on identifying and reporting suspicious activity remains crucial. The disparity in iOS and Android targeting reflects enterprise device preferences and attacker priorities, not inherent differences in security. However, iOS's higher phishing exposure shows no platform is invulnerable, and OS-agnostic solutions like Mobile Threat Defense (MTD) systems are vital. The persistent exploitation of browser and app vulnerabilities also highlights the need for rigorous update policies and vulnerability management. Organizations should consider Zero Trust principles for mobile access, ensuring devices meet strict compliance standards before connecting to sensitive resources. As attackers refine their techniques, combining MTD with robust employee training and layered defenses is key to mitigating these threats. Prioritizing mobile threat intelligence and real-time monitoring will be critical in staying ahead of this dynamic threat landscape.

DHS: Guidance for AI in Critical Infrastructure *Security Intelligence, 12/30/2024*

At the end of 2024, we've reached a moment in artificial intelligence (AI) development where government involvement can help shape the trajectory of this extremely pervasive technology. In the most recent example, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has released what it calls a "first-of-its-kind" framework designed to ensure the safe and secure deployment of AI across critical infrastructure sectors. The framework could be the catalyst for what could become a comprehensive set of regulatory measures, as it brings into focus the significant role AI will play in securing key infrastructure systems. As Secretary Alejandro N. Mayorkas put it, "AI offers a once-in-a-generation opportunity to improve the strength and resilience of U.S. critical infrastructure, and we must seize it while minimizing its potential harms. <https://securityintelligence.com/news/dhs-guidance-for-ai-in-critical-infrastructure/>

ANALYST COMMENTARY: On 14 November 2024, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) released guidance titled "Roles and Responsibilities Framework for Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Critical Infrastructure." The product was an effort between government and private stakeholders to make best practice recommendations on "how each layer of the AI supply chain can do their part to ensure that AI is deployed safely and securely in U.S. critical infrastructure." The framework is addressed to cloud and computer infrastructure providers, AI developers, critical infrastructure owners and operators,

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civil society, and the public sector. It creates five responsibility areas: “securing environments, driving responsible model and system design, implementing data governance, ensuring safe and secure deployment, and monitoring performance and impact for critical infrastructure.” The framework also “provides technical and process recommendations to enhance the safety, security, and trustworthiness of AI systems deployed across the nation’s sixteen critical infrastructure sectors.” The entire document can be viewed at: https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2024-11/24_1114_dhs_ai-roles-and-responsibilities-framework-508.pdf.

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