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

February 14, 2025

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY & INCIDENT REPORTS

1 Shot, 1 Assaulted At Dayton Light Rail Station In Southern Part Of Denver Metro Area *CBS, 2/12/2025*

[Denver, Colorado] Crime tape could be seen surrounding the parking lot of RTD's Dayton Station on Tuesday afternoon after a report of shots fired. The light rail station is located in Greenwood Village next to Cherry Creek State Park in the southern part of Denver metro area. In an update, one person was shot, and another person was assaulted, according to the Greenwood Village Police Department. Both victims were taken to the hospital for treatment. Authorities released an update Wednesday afternoon that one victim, a 17-year-old male, did not survive. Witnesses told police multiple suspects ran from the scene. All are unknown at the time of the update sent by the police department via email.
<https://www.cbsnews.com/colorado/news/shooting-reports-dayton-light-rail-station-greenwood-village-denver/>

Almost 3 Dozen Vehicles Involved In Crash On WB I-84 Near Multnomah Falls *KATU 2, 2/13/2025*

[Oregon] Nearly three dozen vehicles were involved in several crashes in the same section of the westbound lanes of Interstate 84 near Multnomah Falls on Thursday during a snowstorm that caused icy and slick roads as well as near white-out conditions. Officials initially estimated more than 100 vehicles were involved in the crashes, but after a more thorough assessment, they said the number of vehicles involved was between 20 and 30. The vehicles were involved at several separate crash locations on westbound I-84 near milepost 28, according to the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office. An SUV involved in the crash burst into flames. Everyone inside the SUV was able to get out. ... Oregon State Police said troopers responded to eight separate crashes that injured four people. The injured were taken to hospitals with minor injuries. <https://katu.com/news/local/multi-car-rash-shuts-down-wb-i-84-near-multnomah-falls#>

ANALYST COMMENTARY: At approximately 11:00 a.m. on 13 February 2025, Oregon officials reported that over 100 vehicles had been involved in collisions in eight separate incidents on I-84 near Multnomah Falls, Oregon during whiteout conditions. Emergency personnel closed the road and responded to the incidents. Drivers and passengers involved were urged to stay in their vehicles while first responders went from vehicle to vehicle to assess the situation and tally casualties. The

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inclement weather and poor visibility presented challenges for first responders, and it took multiple hours for them to get an accurate count of involved vehicles and injuries. Following a “more thorough assessment,” hours later Oregon officials announced that the number of vehicles involved was significantly lower than 100, and actually between 20 and 30, and that four people suffered minor injuries. Oregon State Police (OSP) are investigating the crashes. Multiple individuals involved in the incidents claimed that visibility was so poor they were unable to see stopped vehicles in front of them on the road until it was too late, and icing on the road prevented them from fully stopping before colliding. By 4 p.m., the road was reopened and traffic began to move again. Motorists are encouraged to avoid traveling during whiteout conditions; however, weather conditions can change rapidly and it is important for motorists already on the road to know how to respond. When driving in whiteout and low visibility conditions, motorists are encouraged to pull off of roads and into safe parking areas until visibility improves. Motorists should never stop in the middle of the road, and if at all possible, they should also avoid parking on the shoulder during these incidents. Instead, motorists should reduce speed until they are driving at a speed that would allow them to come to a complete stop before reaching the end of what they can see, and continue to drive as safely as possible until reaching a safe designated parking place to pull over.

TERRORISM & EXTREMISM

Prosecutors See An Islamic Extremist Motive In The Munich Car-Ramming Attack

Associated Press, 2/14/2025

[Germany] The suspect in the car-ramming attack in Munich that left more than 30 people injured appears to have had an Islamic extremist motive, but there’s no evidence that he was involved with any radical network, authorities said Friday. The 24-year-old Afghan, who arrived in Germany as an asylum-seeker in 2016 and lived in Munich, was arrested after driving his Mini Cooper into the back of a labor union demonstration in the Bavarian city on Thursday. Police officers pulled him out of the car after firing a shot at the vehicle, which didn’t hit him, and arrested him. It was the fifth in a series of attacks involving immigrants over the past nine months that have pushed migration to the forefront of the campaign for Germany’s Feb. 23 election. <https://apnews.com/article/germany-munich-car-attack-suspect-extremism-3ca7bd91524aecba67cb8c8f586031bf>

Sustained International Cooperation in Fight Against Terrorism

Voice of America, 2/13/2025

Terrorist groups in the Middle East and Central Asia continue to pose a significant threat, while the volatile situation in Syria poses “the risk that stockpiles of advanced weapons could fall into the hands of terrorists,” according to the latest U.N. Secretary-General’s biannual strategic-level report on terrorism.

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Nonetheless, Africa, particularly Sub-Saharan Africa, has become the epicenter of global terrorism. “ISIS has expanded the frequency and lethality of its attacks in the Sahel, making this region the global epicenter for fatalities from terrorist attacks,” said United States Chargé d’Affaires ad interim to the U.N., Dorothy Shea. “As such, ISIS-Somalia, ISIS-Sahel, and ISIS-West Africa collectively pose a significant threat to stability and prosperity in Africa.” “We are also watching closely the situation in Syria. The United States wants stability and security in the region, and we want a Syria that lives in peace with its neighbors, respects human rights, and prohibits terrorists from using its country as a safe haven,” she said. <https://editorials.voa.gov/a/sustained-international-cooperation-in-fight-against-terrorism/7973822.html>

Extremism in Gaming Spaces: Policy for Prevention and Moderation

The Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies, 2/13/2025

Online experiences, including gaming, are becoming integral to daily life, and violent extremists and terrorists are increasingly exploiting these spaces. While current research recognises the role of extreme content — such as hate speech, conspiracy theories and disinformation — in reducing resilience to radicalisation to violence, there are still significant gaps in addressing these issues within gaming spaces. With gaming culture expanding rapidly and blending with popular entertainment culture, there is a pressing need to bridge these gaps in both research and policy. So far, research on gaming and extremism has been limited to anecdotal evidence, a small number of pilot studies, and theoretical exploration, leaving much to understand about how gaming spaces can contribute to radicalisation to violence. Key aspects, such as the transnational nature of gaming spaces and the role of culturally-informed identities, are still underexplored. Furthermore, the gendered dynamics of gaming and the impact of discrimination based on identity factors, such as gender, race and religion, have been largely overlooked in existing research. <https://www.rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/policy-briefs/extremism-gaming-spaces-policy-prevention-and-moderation>

SECURITY & SAFETY AWARENESS

‘Size Of Picnic Tables’: U.S. Sen. Bernie Moreno Sounds Alarm Over Ohio Drone Sightings

Cleveland.com, 2/13/2025

[Ohio] U.S. Sen. Bernie Moreno wants the U.S. departments of transportation and homeland security to probe a series of unexplained drone sightings in Ohio. The Westlake Republican sent a letter Thursday asking U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy and U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem for information on an “alarming number of drone sightings” constituents have reported, particularly in Mercer, Darke, and Van Wert counties. “In some cases, my constituents noted that the drones were the size of a picnic table or hot tubs and flying as low as 100 feet and at speeds of up to 80 miles per hours,” Moreno’s letter said, citing a local television report in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The letter requests that the

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agencies help state and local law enforcement address residents' concerns. It added that in December 2024, Dayton's Wright-Patterson Air Force Base was forced to close its airspace for about four hours because of drone sightings. <https://www.cleveland.com/news/2025/02/size-of-picnic-tables-us-sen-bernie-moreno-sounds-alarm-over-ohio-drone-sightings.html>

Canadian Citizen Charged With Aerial Photography Of Defense Installation

Department of Justice, 2/13/2025

[Florida] United States Attorney Roger B. Handberg announces the filing of a criminal information charging Xiao Guang Pan (71, Canada) with three counts of using an unmanned aircraft to photograph vital defense installations and equipment without authorization. If convicted, Pan faces a maximum penalty of one year in federal prison on each count. According to the criminal information, Pan used an unmanned aircraft to photograph vital defense installations and equipment at Cape Canaveral Space Force Base. On three separate days in January 2025, Pan took aerial photographs of Space Launch complexes, a payload processing facility, a submarine wharf, and munitions bunkers. Taking unauthorized photographs of vital defense installations or equipment is prohibited under federal law.

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-mdfl/pr/canadian-citizen-charged-aerial-photography-defense-installation>

ANALYST COMMENTARY: On 13 February 2025, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) announced criminal charges against 71-year-old Xiao Guang Pan, a Canadian citizen, for “using an unmanned aircraft to photograph vital defense installations and equipment without authorization” at military installations in Florida. Pan, a photographer and licensed drone operator, allegedly “took aerial photographs of Space Launch complexes, a payload processing facility, a submarine wharf, and munitions bunkers” on three separate days in January 2025 while in the U.S. on a tourist visa. Thus far, it is unclear what Pan’s motivations were for collecting the imagery. The incident bears some resemblance to another recent incident in California that occurred on 30 November 2024. During that incident, Yinpiao Zhou, 39, a Chinese citizen and permanent resident of Brentwood, California and one other person who had come into the U.S. from China three days earlier allegedly operated a drone over Vandenberg Space Force Base in California for approximately an hour. The drone was launched from a public park near the base, elevated to over 1,000 feet above ground level, then loitered over the base for approximately one hour while collecting imagery. Base law enforcement confronted Zhou and his accomplice at the time and discovered pictures of the base on the drone. On 8 December 2024, Zhou was arrested while attempting to board a flight to China at the San Francisco International Airport. It is unclear what happened to Zhou’s accomplice. In both cases, the motives are unclear and the accused have charged with breaking laws related to improper use of unmanned aircraft and violating national defense airspace rather than anything espionage related. Sector personnel are urged to report all suspicious activity through appropriate channels, and everybody is encouraged to report suspicious activity they see in their day to day lives in accordance with the Department of Homeland

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Security's (DHS) "If You See Something, Say Something" campaign. The campaign guidelines can be found at: <https://www.dhs.gov/see-something-say-something/how-to-report-suspicious-activity>

Metro Considers Banning Violent Offenders

NBC, 2/13/2025

[Washington, D.C.] Metro is considering banning people who have committed sex offenses within the transit system or assaulted its employees. "We need a tool beyond the tools we have today. I personally have run into people on the system, I get e-mails from women who have been victimized. It's just a horrible experience, and it's preventable if we can keep people off the system," WMATA General Manager and CEO Randy Clarke said during a recent board meeting. Currently, Metro itself does not ban riders convicted of violent crimes. Courts are able to ban riders, but court orders often only last a few weeks and only prohibit access to the specific bus line or train station where the crime is committed, according to WMATA. Metro leaders said implementing its own ban would allow it to issue orders that last longer and cover larger areas of the transit system. <https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/metro-considers-banning-violent-offenders/3844260/>

Snow, Freezing Rain Pummel Mid-Atlantic While California Prepares for Likely Flooding

Homeland Security Today, 2/13/2025

Snow, sleet and freezing rain were expected to continue pummeling the central Appalachians and mid-Atlantic states Wednesday, while California readied for a storm that could flood areas ravaged by the recent wildfires. Especially heavy snowfall — up to nearly 14 inches (25 centimeters) — was expected in parts of Virginia and West Virginia, according to the National Weather Service. Ice accumulations could reach more than a third of an inch (8.4 millimeters) in Stanleytown, Virginia, and a quarter of an inch (6.3 millimeters) in Glendale Springs, North Carolina. In California, an atmospheric river — a long band of water vapor that can transport moisture from the tropics to more northern areas — was expected to move in late Wednesday, likely flooding urban areas across central and Southern California, according to the weather service. <https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/emergency-preparedness/snow-freezing-rain-pummel-mid-atlantic-while-california-prepares-for-likely-flooding/>

CYBERSECURITY

WordPress ASE Plugin Vulnerability Threatens Site Security

Infosecurity Magazine, 2/6/2025

A privilege escalation vulnerability has been identified in the Admin and Site Enhancements (ASE) plugin for WordPress, affecting both free and pro versions up to 7.6.2.1. The flaw allows users to regain higher-level access privileges, posing a serious security risk. The issue has been patched in version 7.6.3 and is

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tracked as CVE-2025-24648 and CVE-2024-43333. The ASE plugin, with over 100,000 active installations, is designed to enhance WordPress admin workflows. The security flaw originates from the “View Admin as Role” feature, which, when enabled, improperly allows users to recover their previous role. If an administrator downgraded a user’s access, the affected user could exploit the vulnerability to restore higher privileges, such as administrator access. <https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/wordpress-ase-plugin-flaw/>

ANALYST COMMENTARY: Privilege escalation vulnerabilities like this one in the ASE plugin are particularly dangerous because they allow attackers to bypass administrative controls without needing a new exploit—just an existing user account with prior higher-level access. The issue here stems from weak permission validation, relying solely on a nonce check, which is a classic mistake in WordPress security. Nonces are meant to prevent cross-site request forgery (CSRF), not to serve as access control mechanisms. When used improperly, they create a false sense of security, making privilege escalation attacks easier. The best mitigation strategy is to ensure that role management features enforce strict permission checks beyond nonces. Developers should implement capability-based checks (e.g., `current_user_can()`) to validate actions against user roles. For WordPress admins, disabling the “View Admin as Role” feature, along with regular audits of user roles. Security plugins like Wordfence or iThemes Security can also help by monitoring for unauthorized role changes. This vulnerability serves as a reminder that even widely used plugins with active development can introduce critical security flaws. Site owners should always keep plugins updated and limit the number of installed plugins to reduce their attack surface. If a plugin’s security track record is questionable, it might be worth looking for alternatives with a stronger focus on secure development practices.

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