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

February 18, 2025

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY & INCIDENT REPORTS

MTA Suspects Another Stolen Subway In The Bronx, But Joyride Was Brief

New York Daily News, 2/14/2025

[New York] Transit officials were investigating another instance of subway theft Thursday, after a train operator in a Bronx subway yard found a No. 5 train had been moved without permission, the Daily News has learned. The train, initially due to depart from the Unionport Yard in Van Nest at 6:43 a.m. Thursday morning, was found with its emergency brakes on, apparently having run over an emergency trip-stop overnight. A transit source familiar with the incident said authorities suspected someone had broken into the train overnight and taken it for a very short joyride, likely limited to one track in the yard. A video posted to Instagram and reviewed by The News shows what appears to be the view from the control cab of a subway train moving slowly on snowy tracks in a yard. A bright yellow trip-stop can be seen on the tracks below the train. As the trip-stop disappears from view, a boy's voice can be heard saying, "You went over." The hiss of an air brake can be heard as the train comes to a stop, and another boy's voice says, "Time to go," before the person holding the camera opens the cab door and jumps out of the train. <https://www.nydailynews.com/2025/02/13/mta-suspects-another-stolen-subway-bronx-joyride-was-brief/>

Video Shows Thief With Circular Saw Opening Brooklyn Subway Storage Box, Stealing \$60K In Computer Equipment

New York Daily News, 2/13/2025

[New York] A masked thief armed with a circular saw cut his way into a storage box on a Brooklyn subway platform and removed \$60,000 in computer equipment during a daring caught-on-camera heist that sent sparks flying, cops said Friday. The suspect was at the Atlantic Ave.-Barclays Center subway stop in downtown Brooklyn at about 3 a.m. on Dec. 27 when he pulled out a battery-powered circular saw from his backpack, cops said. He was caught on surveillance camera cutting into a locked mechanical box on the platform, which MTA employees use to store equipment. The suspect cut into the lock just as a train entered the station to muffle the sound, the video shows. Sparks were flying as he sawed through. Police didn't immediately disclose exactly what the crook stole. Subway surveillance cameras caught him waiting for a train to take him away from the scene. <https://www.nydailynews.com/2025/02/14/video-shows-thief-with-circular-saw-opening-brooklyn-subway-storage-box-stealing-60k-in-computer-equipment/>

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Woman Arrested For Assaulting Child, Harassing People At Greyhound Station

WSMV 4, 2/14/2025

[Nashville, Tennessee] Officers arrested a woman who allegedly assaulted an 11-year-old boy and harassed several patrons waiting for their bus at the Greyhound station on Wednesday in Nashville. According to the arrest affidavit, officers with the Metro Nashville Police Department were called to the Greyhound bus station on Rep John Lewis Way South for reports of a woman who punched a young boy in the head. The boy told the officers that she was demanding that he “open his mouth,” the affidavit states. The woman was identified at the scene as 36-year-old Chelsea Nichole Lewis-Lefler. Security guards at the station told officers that prior to the assault, she had been bothering other people waiting for the bus, and even spit on one person, according to the affidavit. They reported asking her to leave multiple times but she refused to leave the property. <https://www.wsmv.com/2025/02/14/woman-arrested-assaulting-child-harassing-people-greyhound-station/>

Houston Companies Rally To Combat Rising Copper Theft At Critical Infrastructure Meeting

KHOU 11, 2/13/2025

[Houston, Texas] As local authorities crackdown on copper theft, Houston-area companies have taken new steps to help fight the growing crime trend. At a ‘critical infrastructure’ task force gathering Thursday, area law enforcement agencies met with officials from AT&T, Verizon, CenterPoint Energy, and other companies to share information about the copper wires being taken. ... Authorities have seen an uptick in copper theft cases, recently. According to data from the Houston Police Department, there were 262 cases of cable lines cut by thieves from January to early November of 2024. That’s up from 216 cases in the same period in 2023. AT&T Director of External and Legislative Affairs Tanya Makany-Rivera said that telecommunications industry leaders plan to file new legislation to combat copper theft. “We want it to be illegal for someone to have telecom wire in their possession,” she said. “We would like to have stiffer penalties because it’s become a major issue. We’re hearing cases of people dressing up like workers and ripping cables down.” <https://www.khou.com/article/news/crime/houston-police-telecom-providers-copper-wire-theft/285-Of5e3280-33af-43d4-869b-31da8527aa10#:~:text=Local%20law%20enforcement%20agencies%20are%20working%20with%20companies,step%20to%20help%20fight%20the%20growing%20crime%20trend.>

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TERRORISM & EXTREMISM

New York Times: US Will Designate 6 Mexican Cartels As Terrorist Groups

Mexico News Daily, 2/13/2025

The Sinaloa Cartel and the Jalisco New Generation Cartel are among six Mexican organized crime groups set to be designated as foreign terrorist organizations by the United States government, according to U.S. officials who spoke with The New York Times. The Times reported on Wednesday that it had spoken to five U.S. officials with knowledge of the Trump administration's "imminent" plans to designate a number of criminal groups with roots in Latin America as terrorist organizations. The officials said that the Mexican groups set to be designated are: The Sinaloa Cartel; The Jalisco New Generation Cartel, or CJNG; The Northeast Cartel; The Gulf Cartel; The Michoacán Family (La Familia Michoacana or La Nueva Familia Michoacana); The United Cartels (Cárteles Unidos). Two of the unnamed U.S. officials told the Times that a total of eight criminal groups are expected to be designated as foreign terrorist organizations. The other two are Tren de Aragua, an organization that originated in Venezuela, and Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13), a gang founded by Salvadoran immigrants in the United States.

<https://mexiconewsdaily.com/news/mexican-cartels-terrorists/>

ANALYST COMMENTARY: On 12 February 2025, the New York Times reported that unnamed U.S. officials had told them that six Mexican cartels - The Sinaloa Cartel, The Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG), The Northeast Cartel, The Gulf Cartel, The Michoacán Family (La Familia Michoacana or La Nueva Familia Michoacana), and The United Cartels (Cárteles Unidos) – were set to be listed as foreign terrorist organizations (FTOs) under the recent executive order signed by Donald Trump on 20 January 2025. In addition, the unnamed sources alleged that Tren de Aragua and Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) were also expected to be listed as FTOs. It is unclear when the organizations will be formally designated; however, the executive order did mandate that U.S. agencies provide the president with a list of entities recommended for listing by 3 February 2025. It is also unclear what actions the U.S. government will take against entities listed as FTOs under the new executive order, though the Washington Post, citing "people familiar with the matter," has reported that "the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is poised to take a larger, more aggressive role under President Donald Trump in the battle against Mexican-based drug cartels, devising and evaluating plans to share more intelligence with regional governments, train local counternarcotics units and possibly conduct other covert actions, according to people familiar with the matter." In addition to this, CNN has reported that the CIA has been operating cross-border unarmed surveillance and intelligence gathering flights that are collecting on the cartels. When questioned about the intelligence operations, a CIA spokesperson claimed, "countering drug cartels in Mexico and regionally is a priority for CIA as a part of the Trump administration's broader efforts to end the grave threat from narco-trafficking, [and] director [John] Ratcliffe is determined to put CIA's unique expertise to work against this multifaceted challenge."

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Calgary Teen Who Posted Pro-ISIS, Anti-LGBTQ Content Placed On Terrorism Peace Bond *CBC, 2/13/2025*

[Canada] A Calgary teenager who posted pro-ISIS, anti-LGBTQ content to social media has been placed on a terrorism peace bond, bringing to an end the court cases stemming from a major RCMP national security investigation. The boy, who was 16 years old at the time of his arrest in December 2023, cannot be named under the Youth Criminal Justice Act. CBC News will identify him as AB for this story. AB was the third teen and fourth person to be arrested in 2023 as part of the RCMP's Integrated National Security Enforcement Team (INSET) investigation. All four court cases were run by federal prosecutors Kent Brown and Domenic Puglia. Over the past 14 months, the two other youths — who were 15 and 17 at the time of their arrests — were also placed on terrorism peace bonds.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/terrorism-peace-bond-teens-calgary-isis-social-media-rcmp-1.7458889>

SECURITY & SAFETY AWARENESS

Kentucky Reels From Flooding That Killed 12 As Another Storm Will Bring Snow And Cold *NBC, 2/17/2025*

[Kentucky] Another winter storm will hit the United States this week and will bring snow to Kentucky, after the state was hit with devastating flooding over the weekend that killed 12 and prompted over 1,000 rescues. Winter alerts were in place for 34 million people from the central Plains to West Virginia on Monday. This storm moved across the Rockies and began producing snow across the central Plains on Monday, and will bring moderate to heavy snow to Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Arkansas by Tuesday. A stripe of ice will also be possible from northern Texas into Arkansas. The storm system will bring snow to Kentucky late Tuesday, and Tennessee and into Virginia and North Carolina on Wednesday. It'll move off the coast by Thursday. The storm will have two pockets of enhanced snowfall: the first across the central Plains and southern Missouri, where 6 to 12 inches could fall, and the second across southeastern Virginia and northern North Carolina. <https://www.nbcnews.com/weather/winter-weather/kentucky-reels-flooding-killed-11-another-storm-will-bring-snow-cold-rcna192453>

ANALYST COMMENTARY: A series of large storms impacted much of the U.S. over the past few weeks, leading to significant snowfall, flooding, and power outages in many states. On 14 February 2025, Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear declared a state of emergency in Kentucky in anticipation of a large storm expected to hit the state on 15 and 16 February. The storm resulted in severe flooding in parts of Kentucky as rivers overflowed their banks, blocking access to towns and creating dangerous travel conditions. Many roadways in Kentucky are currently closed due to swift and deep floodwater running across them which has made them untraversable. Emergency responders in Kentucky have conducted over 1,000 rescues so far, and at least 14 people have been found dead in six counties, many of whom attempted to drive through floodwaters. As of 18 February, the National Weather

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Service (NWS) has placed much of Kentucky under a Winter Storm Warning until 19 February, forecasting three to six inches of snow in much of the state which is anticipated to further hamper recovery efforts. According to the NWS, floods cause more deaths each year than any other thunderstorm related hazard, and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports that over half of flood drownings are attributed to people attempting to drive their vehicles through flooded areas. Just six inches of moving floodwater can knock over an adult, 12 inches can carry away most sedans, and two feet will move most trucks and SUVs. In addition to the danger of drowning, floodwater often carries other health risks. Floods often result in downed power lines that pose an electrocution hazard and can result in the overflow of sewer and drainage systems, resulting in the potential for raw sewage and hazardous waste in the waters. Both the CDC and the NWS encourage people to avoid floodwater whenever possible, and if contact is unavoidable, individuals are encouraged to minimize exposure. The NWS has additional flood safety resources on their Turn Around Don't Drown public safety announcement webpage that can be viewed at: <https://www.weather.gov/safety/flood-turn-around-dont-drown>

Metro Chair and Supervisor Hahn Calls for Immigration 'Know Your Rights' Campaign

My News LA, 2/13/2025

[Los Angeles, California] LA Metro Board Chair of Directors and County Supervisor Janice Hahn has requested the transportation agency implement a "Know Your Rights" campaign for migrants throughout its bus and rail systems, officials announced Thursday. Hahn sent a letter to Metro CEO Stephanie Wiggins that requested Metro to work with L.A. County's Office of Immigrant Affairs to display information and resources available to riders who are migrants. The move comes amid intensified immigration enforcement actions nationwide and after the Los Angeles Times reported that Immigration and Customs Enforcement planned major enforcement activity in the L.A. region later this month. According to Hahn's office, the supervisor intends to help inform riders about their rights they have during interactions with ICE or law enforcement agents — including the right not to open their doors and the right to consult a lawyer before signing documents.

<https://mynews1a.com/government/2025/02/13/la-metro-chair-hahn-calls-for-a-know-your-rights-campaign-for-immigrants-3/>

VIA Metropolitan Transit Installs New Fare Boxes Across Its Bus Fleet

Mass Transit Magazine, 2/13/2025

[Texas] VIA Metropolitan Transit completed the installation of new fare boxes across its bus fleet on Feb. 10, making fare payment quicker and easier for transit customers. The agency notes riders can now pay using Apple, Google or Samsung mobile wallets, along with contactless debit and credit cards at any fare box. According to the agency, the modernization of the fare payment system will provide more options to pay, speeding up boardings and reducing delays, which all combine to reduce travel time and improve

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& OVER THE ROAD BUS



the overall customer experience. The agency began installing the new fare boxes in November and completed the project in mid-January. Riders may also continue to use the agency's goMobile+ app, the Transit app or a goCard. The agency notes the update also includes the launch of the goCard Lite smartcard, which will replace the previous pre-loaded magnetic strip e-cards. VIA Metropolitan Transit says riders can purchase or exchange fare cards for a new goCard Lite smartcard at customer service ticket windows during normal business hours. <https://www.masstransitmag.com/technology/fare-collection/press-release/55268065/via-metropolitan-transit-via-metropolitan-transit-installs-new-fare-boxes-across-its-bus-fleet>

CYBERSECURITY

SystemBC RAT Now Targets Linux, Spreading Ransomware and Infostealers

HackRead, 2/11/2025

Threat analysts have identified a new and emerging threat: a variant of the SystemBC RAT (Remote Access Trojan) that is now actively targeting Linux-based platforms. This development puts corporate networks, cloud infrastructures, and IoT devices at risk. The latest version of SystemBC RAT is more stealthy and harder to detect, using encrypted communication to stay hidden while letting attackers move freely through compromised systems. SystemBC is a Remote Access Trojan (RAT) commonly used in cyberattacks to provide attackers with remote control over infected systems. Initially a Windows-only threat, it has now expanded to Linux, making it even more dangerous as Linux-based servers are widely used in enterprise environments. <https://hackread.com/systembc-rat-targets-linux-ransomware-infostealers/>

ANALYST COMMENTARY: The latest variant of SystemBC RAT targeting Linux poses a threat for enterprise security. Linux servers are often highly sought-after by threat actors because they form the basis for numerous business networks, cloud settings, and IoT infrastructure. The SystemBC RAT is challenging to identify and stop because it uses virtualization evasion, for lateral movement, and encrypted C2 communication. Given that conventional endpoint detection and response (EDR) solutions sometimes perform worse on Linux than on Windows, this stealth aspect is especially worrisome. In addition, SystemBC RAT usually functions as a component of a larger attack chain rather than functioning independently, which is a trend that is expected to continue in the Linux variant. SystemBC has already been connected to ransomware organizations including Ryuk and Conti and these pairings are anticipated to continue across the Linux variant. According to HackRead, "While SystemBC RAT is designed to keep its C2 communication encrypted and hidden, it becomes fully visible inside an ANY.RUN analysis session. By running a real sample in the sandbox, security teams can see the malware's network connections, file modifications, and process activities in real time." Mitigation techniques include better Linux endpoint visibility, network-level monitoring for anomalies in encrypted data, and making sure systems are patched against known vulnerabilities that attackers can

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use to obtain early. Additionally, security personnel want to take a proactive approach by utilizing real-time analysis technologies to find concealed risks before they become widespread. Businesses must strengthen their defenses beyond simple perimeter security since Linux is becoming more and more targeted by attackers.

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