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

February 21, 2025

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY & INCIDENT REPORTS

Two Teen Girls Arrested For Plotting Mass Casualty Attack On High School: Report
Daily Wire, 2/19/2025

[Texas] Law enforcement officials say that they stopped a mass casualty attack in Texas this week on a high school in Houston. "FBI Houston received information yesterday that two underage teenagers from the Houston area were plotting a mass casualty attack at a local school," the local FBI field office said in a statement on Wednesday night. The two suspects, identified as a 15-year-old and 16-year-old, were quickly located and arrested after the threat was made on social media. Fox News reporter Brooke Taylor said that Chief Baimbridge with Spring Branch ISD indicated that the two suspects were girls. They allegedly were "going to place pipe bombs across Memorial High School and shoot up the students," Taylor wrote. "The 16 year old girl student who attends the school was found at the school about 30 minutes after the threat." The threats were transmitted over social media and were "extremely detailed," Taylor added, "which is why police believe it to be so credible." https://www.dailywire.com/news/two-teen-girls-arrested-for-plotting-mass-casualty-attack-on-high-school-report

Tri-Rail Train Slams Into Tesla On Pembroke Road
Local 10, 2/20/2025

[Hollywood, Florida] A Tri-Rail train slammed a Tesla stopped on the tracks along Pembroke Road Thursday morning. Video shows that the crash damaged a railroad crossing arm. It happened just before 8:30 a.m. According to Hollywood Fire Rescue, nobody was hurt. The crash led to backups on Pembroke Road and for passengers on the commuter train. https://www.local10.com/news/local/2025/02/20/tri-rail-train-slams-into-tesla-on-pembroke-road/

ANALYST COMMENTARY: Train and vehicle collisions in the U.S. remain a serious concern, with thousands of incidents occurring each year. According to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), there were over 2,045 highway-rail grade crossing collisions in 2024, resulting in 252 fatalities and over 600 injuries. In other words, a person or vehicle is struck by a train approximately once every four hours in the U.S. Despite the prevalence of these incidents, Operation Lifesaver, Inc. (OLI) reports that train and vehicle collisions have declined 83 percent since 1972, down from a high of about 12,000 annual incidents in the early 1970s. Many of the train and vehicle collisions that happen today

NOT FOR PUBLIC DISSEMINATION

occur at unprotected or poorly marked crossings, with driver inattention, impatience, and misjudgment often cited as contributing factors. Large vehicles are particularly at risk for collisions with trains. This is because high profile vehicles like buses and trucks with trailers often have low ground clearance which can cause them to bottom out on crossings that are elevated or have a hump, and these longer, heavier vehicles require more time to accelerate and clear railroad crossings than passenger vehicles. They also often have larger blind spots than passenger vehicles which can make it more difficult for them to visually acquire trains approaching crossings. To improve safety at rail crossings and reduce train and vehicle collisions, researchers have recommended installing more gates, flashing lights, and audible alerts at rail crossings. In addition, public information and awareness campaigns, like the ones prepared by OLI, can educate the public on rail safety and improve rail safety. OLI public awareness campaigns can be found at: https://oli.org/about-us/public-awareness-campaigns

Man Pushes Woman To Subway Floor, Grabs Her Chest, Private Area In Brooklyn
1010 WINS, 2/20/2025

[New York] Police released a photo Thursday of a suspect wanted for pushing a woman to the ground and sexually assaulting her in a Brooklyn subway station earlier this week. The attack happened on Feb. 17 around 5 p.m. in the mezzanine of the Ditmas Avenue F train station in Midwood, police said. According to police, the 29-year-old victim was approached by an unidentified man who pushed her to the ground and groped her breast and private area before fleeing on foot. No injuries were reported. https://www.audacy.com/1010wins/news/local/man-wanted-for-grabbing-victims-private-area-in-bk-subway

TERRORISM & EXTREMISM

No Injuries From Israeli Bus Explosions In Suspected Militant Attack, Police Say
Associated Press, 2/20/2025

[Israel] A series of explosions Thursday on three parked buses has rattled central Israel in what authorities suspected was a militant attack. No injuries were reported. The explosions happened on a day when Israel was already grieving after Hamas returned the bodies of four hostages from Gaza as part of a ceasefire deal. The bus explosions were reminiscent of bombings during the Palestinian uprising of the 2000s, but such attacks are now rare. Explosives were found on two other buses but did not detonate, police spokesman Asi Aharoni told Channel 13 TV. Israeli police said the five bombs were identical and equipped with timers, and said bomb squads were defusing the unexploded bombs. Investigators in white coveralls searched for evidence inside the burned-out metal shells of the buses, which blew up in a parking lot in Bat Yam, a city outside Tel Aviv. https://apnews.com/article/israel-bus-explosions-palestinians-gaza-4a13242cfd220ebdbedf1f0f0a389834

NOT FOR PUBLIC DISSEMINATION

Timely reporting to the **TSA Transportation Security Operations Center** is essential. Reports are made by telephone at **866-615- 5150** and by e-mail at **TSOC.ST@tsa.dhs.gov.**

ANALYST COMMENTARY: On 20 February 2025 at approximately 8:30 p.m., bombs went off on three buses that were parked at bus stations approximately 1,600 feet apart from each other in Bat Yam, Israel. The bombs were attached to timers and scheduled to all go off together. The first two bombs went off within two minutes of each other, and the third bomb detonated approximately 15 minutes later. Two identical bombs that had not exploded were also located on two other buses in the area during a subsequent investigation, one of which was initially found by a passenger who reported a suspicious device. Both were rendered safe by bomb squads. Nobody was injured or killed during the incidents, but three buses were destroyed. According to the Tel Aviv Police, the bombs weighed approximately 10 pounds each, were comprised of non-traditional explosive materials including fertilizer and urea, and were intended to detonate on the morning of 21 February when the buses would have passengers on board; however, the devices were either improperly manufactured or malfunctioned and went off early. Israeli security authorities believe that the bombs were manufactured and planted by Hamas operatives who had received support from Iran. Three people have been arrested in connection with the plot, and Israeli authorities have set up "preventative activities" to protect against further attacks. Hamas and their sympathizers have selected Israeli buses and bus stops as targets for their attacks for decades. Historically, they have carried out firearm attacks, bombings, and vehicle rammings at bus infrastructure in the region, including coordinated bombings at multiple bus stops in 2022 that killed two people and injured 46 others. Had the devices in this most recent attack worked as intended and detonated while the buses were transporting passengers, this incident had the potential to have been the most destructive attack against bus infrastructure in Israeli history.

Confronting Global Terrorism: A Data-Driven Analysis of Tactics, Weapons, and Trends Using GTTAC
Homeland Security Today, 2/20/2025

Terrorism has consistently remained a significant concern amidst the many challenges the world faces today. While issues such as illegal migration, border security, illicit trade, human trafficking, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and climate change have dominated the agendas of Western governments, none have managed to overshadow the persistent threat of terrorism. Despite evolving security paradigms that highlight emerging threats, such as China's military and economic expansion, terrorism continues to be a critical issue in Western countries. The scholars in the United States, in particular, view terrorism as an elevated threat, driven by a combination of factors, including international terrorism from Salafi-jihadist groups like ISIS and Al-Qaeda, state-sponsored terrorism from regimes such as Iran's, and domestic terrorism fueled by home-grown extremists influenced by jihadist ideologies or far-right movements. https://www.hstoday.us/featured/column-confronting-global-terrorism-a-data-driven-analysis-of-tactics-weapons-and-trends-using-gttac/

NOT FOR PUBLIC DISSEMINATION

Timely reporting to the **TSA Transportation Security Operations Center** is essential. Reports are made by telephone at **866-615- 5150** and by e-mail at **TSOC.ST@tsa.dhs.gov.**

SECURITY & SAFETY AWARENESS

University Of Oregon Professor Investigates How Climate Change Affects Public Transit Usage And Ridership
Mass Transit Magazine, 2/20/2025

A researcher from the University of Oregon (UO) completed a study of urban mobility and climate change to offer comprehensive insights into extreme weather events and public transit ridership. UO Associate Professor in the School of Planning Public Policy and Management Nicole Ngo gathered data spanning 17 years from the 48 U.S. cities with the highest public transit ridership, covering diverse geographic regions. Her paper in the December edition of Transportation Research Part D also looks at how population and income factor in. Shahinur Bashar, a doctoral candidate in the UO School of Planning, Public Policy and Management, was co-author of the paper. Ngo said she hopes the results will help city planners and transportation officials address the challenges of climate change. "A growing number of studies demonstrate the impact of climate change on travel behavior, but those tend to focus on one city over a narrow time period. It's useful to quantify these trends and confirm they apply nationwide. This will have ramifications for transit agencies down the line," Ngo said.
https://www.masstransitmag.com/bus/press-release/55269495/university-of-oregon-university-of-oregon-professor-investigates-how-climate-change-affects-public-transit-usage-and-ridership

Finding Better Ways To Increase Roadway Safety And Innovation
Forbes, 2/20/2025

Digital transformation has entered even slow-moving industries. Technology has become an increasingly important component of driving innovation and everyday operations for transportation and road management companies. One recent research article even called this movement "the digital revolution of the transportation industry." Within that general movement, everyone has a role to play. Transportation businesses like auto companies and producers of supporting technology can join in the trend by focusing on and embracing technologies that have a potentially significant impact on roadway safety and innovations. AI-supported road monitoring systems are just one of the many examples in this technology ecosystem of opportunity. AI systems can analyze dashcam footage to monitor road conditions, helping departments of transportation prioritize infrastructure build and repair projects. But that's only the beginning. In reality, technology has the potential to permeate nearly every effort that drives innovation. https://www.forbes.com/councils/forbestechcouncil/2025/02/20/finding-better-ways-to-increase-roadway-safety-and-innovation/

Most of South Florida's Electric Buses Parked, Awaiting Repairs
Government Technology, 2/20/2025

[Florida] Miami-Dade and Broward spent $126 million to purchase 117 electric buses and build charging stations for the new clean, green fleet. It was a forward-thinking solution intended to save South Florida money and cut back on fossil fuel buses that spew pollution and contribute to climate change and health problems. Today, few of the EV buses remain on the road. Most broke down in under a year, pulled from routes while awaiting a backlog of maintenance work. Adding to repair headaches, Proterra — the California-based company that manufactured the buses — has since filed for bankruptcy, leaving the counties with a parts shortage and a bunch of vehicles they've been unable to fix. How badly have the EV fleets short-circuited? In Miami-Dade, depending on the day, only five to seven of the county's 75 EV buses are in service. In Broward, none of Broward's fleet of 42 EVs buses managed to run routes earlier this month. https://www.govtech.com/transportation/most-of-south-floridas-electric-buses-parked-awaiting-repairs

Metro Transit Bus Drivers Stage Labor Action, Straining Service
Wisconsin State Journal, 2/20/2025

[Wisconsin] Metro Transit bus service faced an "extreme number" of bus driver absences and drivers refusing to work overtime Thursday amid strained contract negotiations with the city over pay raises — a sharp disruption to the transit system five months into the launch of the city's marquee Bus Rapid Transit system. City bus drivers have been working under the terms of an old contract that expired on Dec. 31, and it was unclear Thursday what the dispute is over, how many drivers didn't show up for work or if the disruptions will continue. Metro Transit leaders declined to comment on the state of contract negotiations. Rick Roeth, the political coordinator for Teamsters Local 120, which represents bus drivers, did not return a phone call requesting comment. In a statement Thursday afternoon, the city confirmed that the disruptions were linked to the ongoing contract talks. https://madison.com/news/local/government-politics/article_af43a402-ef99-11ef-b55f-338278e44c26.html

CTA Workers' Union Raises Safety Concerns After Recent Incidents
WGNTV, 2/20/2025

[Chicago, Illinois] The union for Chicago Transit Authority workers on Thursday morning expressed concerns about safety and security on public transit after two recent incidents. "My members do not feel safe. They don't want to come to work. They do not want to work in this environment and CTA is not doing anything to make it any better for their employees," said Pennie McCoach, President of ATU Local 308. Union members say they've communicated with the Chicago Police Department and Chicago Transit Authority to put safety mechanisms in place, including additional officers on buses and trains and bulletproof glass at attendants' booths. … On Wednesday afternoon, a passenger entered a CTA

employee's booth and told her to call the police, saying "I'm going to kill you." McCoach said the man used an orange traffic cone to break the window of the booth. The employee was able to lock herself in a bathroom. https://wgntv.com/news/traffic/union-for-cta-workers-raises-safety-concerns-after-recent-incidents/

CYBERSECURITY

FINALDRAFT Malware Exploits Microsoft Graph API for Espionage on Windows and Linux
Hacker News, 2/13/2025

Threat hunters have shed light on a new campaign targeting the foreign ministry of an unnamed South American nation with bespoke malware capable of granting remote access to infected hosts. The activity, detected in November 2024, has been attributed by Elastic Security Labs to a threat cluster it tracks as REF7707. Some of the other targets include a telecommunications entity and a university, both located in Southeast Asia. "While the REF7707 campaign is characterized by a well-engineered, highly capable, novel intrusion set, the campaign owners exhibited poor campaign management and inconsistent evasion practices," security researchers Andrew Pease and Seth Goodwin said in a technical analysis. The exact initial access vector used in the attacks is currently not clear, although it has been observed that Microsoft's certutil application is used to download additional payloads from a web server associated with the Foreign Ministry. https://thehackernews.com/2025/02/finaldraft-malware-exploits-microsoft.html

ANALYST COMMENTARY: The campaign by REF7707 demonstrates how cyber-espionage organizations are changing their strategies by combining lax operational security with highly skilled malware development. It is also worrying that threat actors can exploit legitimate cloud services to conceal their activities within regular network traffic by using the Microsoft Graph API for C2. The use of **stolen network credentials** and lateral movement through Windows Remote Management (WinRM) is another lesson to be learned. This implies that rather than using conventional phishing or exploit-based techniques, threat actors most likely obtained early access using compromised credentials. This highlights ongoing security issues, like weak password hygiene, credential theft, and the absence of multi-factor authentication (MFA). Monitoring unusual authentication patterns, limiting WinRM access, and putting in place identity verification procedures should be top priorities for organizations. Given that many threat actors with an interest in espionage create cross-platform toolkits to guarantee persistence in a variety of settings, the Linux version of FINALDRAFT is especially noteworthy. This emphasizes the necessity of endpoint detection programs that work with Linux and Windows. The attackers' focus on stealth is demonstrated by their use of **process injection, NTLM hash abuse, and ETW evasion**, which makes behavioral-based detections essential for mitigation. Despite the complexity of the malware, defenders may be able to identify and stop its activities due

to REF7707's erratic evasion techniques. Security teams should keep an eye out for unexpected process creation connected to system utilities like `mspaint.exe`, anomalous draft email behavior, and Graph API usage.

NOT FOR PUBLIC DISSEMINATION

Timely reporting to the **TSA Transportation Security Operations Center** is essential. Reports are made by telephone at **866-615- 5150** and by e-mail at **TSOC.ST@tsa.dhs.gov.**