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## **BEHIND THE LINES: Our Take on the Other Media's Homeland Security Coverage**

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Over the past decade, U.S. taxpayer's have given DHS agencies and officers \$90 billion to secure the Mexico border, but "the returns have been mixed: fewer illegal immigrants but little impact on terrorism and certainly no halt to the drug supply," The **Associated Press'** **Martha Mendoza** assesses -- as **Carlton Purvis** rehearses for **Security Management** a raft of recently proposed border security bills. "The Mexican government, finally, is gaining the upper hand in a drug war that has turned much of the border region and parts of interior Mexico into war zones," Ricardo Ainslie asserts in The **Houston Chronicle**.

**Feds:** DHS officials last year misleadingly downplayed a wave of immigration case dismissals amid accusations that they had created a "backdoor amnesty," The **Houston Chronicle's** **Susan Carroll** sees new documents demonstrating -- while The **Hill's** **Jordy Yaeger** reports House Judiciary's GOP chairman drafting a bill temporarily freezing ICE's power to grant amnesty to illegal immigrants. Citing the homeland security risks posed by further delays to voluntary DMV security upgrades, Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner Jr., R-Wis., yesterday urged prompt adoption of Real ID-compliant driver's licenses, The **Sacramento Bee** relays. After a spate of hacking attacks, DHS yesterday promoted ways to make software more trustworthy, **Technology Review's** **Erica Naone** notes.

**Napolitano Complex:** "Why is Janet not in jail?" The **Newark Star-Ledger's** **Paul Mulshine** demands in yet another denunciation of DHS's much-pilloried chief, this time in reaction to TSA's alleged checkpoint removal of a 95-year-old woman's adult diaper -- while **USA Today's** **Ben Mutzabaugh** hears TSA denying that claim. "First Eric Holder gets his feet put to the fire. Then Janet Napolitano," The **Tucson Citizen's** **Hugh Holub** pledges, denouncing "Bordergate," i.e., official minimization of border security woes. "As governor of Arizona, Napolitano was outspoken about [federal failure] relative to the southern border. There are those who believe that the only thing that has changed under her aegis is the rhetoric," **Jim Bispo** blasts in The **Beaufort (S.C.) Observer**.

**State and local:** While ordinarily stressing that it does not cooperate with ICE on immigration enforcement, San Jose police leaped at chance to borrow elite DHS agents to help tackle its gang problems, the **Mercury News** notes. Seattle-area Muslims are doing their best to separate themselves from two prison converts to Islam arrested for plotting violence against a military recruitment center, **KOMO 4 News** notes. The Philadelphia City Council unanimously wants to wind up its Secure Communities agreement with ICE because it is "creating fear of

police among undocumented but otherwise law-abiding immigrants," the **Inquirer** informs. San Diego County has become the latest local government in California to explore using USCIS's E-Verify to check the legal status of government workers, The **Examiner** relates -- while Rep. Lamar Smith, R-Texas, argues in The **Hill** that E-Verify not only works, "more importantly, it creates jobs."

**Bugs 'n bombs:** The Boston Fire Department has suspended 54 firefighters who were among 213 EMTs statewide found to have faked medical training certifications, the **Globe** relates. A South African has been jailed for five years after threatening to unleash a biological agent in Britain and the United States unless paid \$4 million, **BBC News** notes. A global effort to stop the smuggling of bomb-making material has intercepted 33 tons of chemicals similar to those used in the 2005 London bombings, **Agence France-Presse** quotes DHS's Napolitano. Efforts to secure the United States against WMDs, particularly bioterror agents, continue to suffer from a lack of funding, coordination and leadership, **BioPrepWatch** hears a panel of experts testifying -- and see, relatedly, from **CRS**: "Dirty Bombs: Technical Background, Attack Prevention and Response, Issues for Congress," as well as "Dirty Bombs: Background in Brief."

**Bid-ness:** New Orleans-based Tidewater Inc. found itself back-footed last week when Treasury announced new trade sanctions targeting a similarly named entity in Iran linked to terrorist activities, **New Orleans CityBusiness** spotlights. Google Inc., "having conquered the Internet and the world around it, is taking on a new challenge: violent extremism," The **Washington Post** spotlights. All told, since passing a law that the status of all employees in the state must be documented, Georgia now has lost nearly 11,000 agricultural jobs and millions of dollars in crops are rotting on the vine, **Reason** rebukes -- as The **Atlanta Business Chronicle** hears a growers' group pegging the losses at a cool \$1 billion. With the runoff selection of a union to represent 43,000 screeners, "the labor movement has now secured one of the most important victories of recent years in a high-profile area of the public sector," **NPR** takes note.

**Close air support:** Rows and rows of snow globes seized as contraband from boarding air passengers sit on shelves at the Texas State Surplus Store near Austin, The **Houston Chronicle** relays. An Illinois man was arrested for making threats to security personnel at Logan International before boarding a Chicago-bound flight, The **Boston Globe** relates -- while The **Suffield Patch** sees Connecticut state police arresting a man boarding a Bradley International flight with a set of throwing stars in his carry-on. Israel may halt all flights from Copenhagen to Tel Aviv in reaction to Denmark's refusal to allow Israeli security personnel to perform independent checks there, **Haaretz** relates. The reception given by the Belgian paratroopers assigned to secure Kabul's airport is "a reminder of why NATO is having such problems retaining Afghan support," **Reuters** reports.

**On a rail:** Federal failures to secure the borders and enforce immigration laws have made terror-proofing commuter lines "much more difficult than it should be for Metro and all other public transit systems," The **Washington Examiner** editorializes. "As a critical homeland security asset," Metro has repeatedly proven itself essential

"in a time of crisis, such as evacuation for weather events and national emergencies like 9/11. The system is at the center of regional evacuation plans," D.C.'s **WJLA 7 News** hears its manager testifying. "Did you think that the NYPD would keep those T3 electric standup scooters roaming restricted to subway stations alone?" The **Gothamist** asks, noting that "a subway rider saw one on the shuttle train between Times Square and Grand Central."

**Courts and rights:** Federal prosecutors want to give potential witnesses a heads-up if their would-be killer, the accused underwear bomber, will be cross-examining them at his terror trial this fall, The **Detroit News** notes. Prosecutors suspect three theft-charged ex-McCarran International security technicians theft are behind a bizarre website that surfaced briefly in April to intimidate witnesses in the criminal case, The **Las Vegas Review-Journal** recounts. "Why shouldn't we be consistent? Why are non-citizen terrorist suspects captured abroad 'unprivileged belligerents' while those captured in the United States are simply criminals?" **Mother Jones** muses. The Equality and Human Rights Commission is suing the U.K. government over the guidelines issued to Brit intel officers, claiming they could still allow terrorism suspects questioned overseas to be tortured, The **Daily Telegraph** tells.

**Talking terror:** A new report from two Frenchthink tanks assigns jihadists a predominant role in the Libyan rebellion, **John Rosenthal** relates in The **National Review**. Al Qaeda's "ascension in the wake of the Yemeni government collapse again illustrates the dangers of un- and under-governed states as terrorist sanctuaries . . . to plan, train and execute global terrorist attacks," **Frank J. Cilluffo** and **Clinton Watts** contend in an **HSPI Issue Brief**. "With such hideous traits and black track record, on what basis the United States is voicing its concerns about terrorism when it is the biggest terrorist state of the world?" The **Asia Tribune's Asif Haroon Raja** assails -- while **AP's Ali Akbar Dareini** hears Iran's supreme leader also accusing the United States of terrorism, pointing to CIA drone strikes in Pakistan that he said have killed scores of civilians. "The CIA, Mossad and MI6 don't need informants to find out what al Qaeda is up to because they created al Qaeda from scratch," Saman Mohammadi insists in **OpEdNews.com**.

**Stratnergizing:** "America isn't busy elsewhere. Washington has plenty of money. War with Syria makes perfect sense," **Doug Bandow** bandies for The **National Interest**. Gen. David Petraeus' imminent move to the CIA director's office stands "as a kind of metaphor for the passing of the torch from counterinsurgency to counterterrorism operations in America's anti-terror wars," The **Christian Science Monitor's Howard LaFranchi** muses. "If American military might has been shown to have limited effect in shaping events over the past 10 years, so have the terrorist strategies of al Qaeda and the Taliban," the **Post's David Ignatius** proposes. "Are we at a point where we can collectively pause and quietly dare to say that we are winning? That al Qaeda's demise is a matter of time? There is good reason to say yes," The **Daily Telegraph's Alex Spillius** leads. See, finally, **Daniel Byman** in **OUPblog**: "5 Habits of Highly Effective Terrorist Organizations."

**No harm, no foul:** "Thousands jumped off the Empire State Building yesterday as part of the famed skyscraper's 12th annual No-Hassle

Suicide Day, during which anyone can take the iconic 86-story plunge without having to worry about being stopped, fined, or serving time in prison," The **Onion** reports. "Calling this year's event a 'resounding success,' building officials said that once the final body had hit the pavement, No-Hassle Suicide Day 2011 would go down as the most well attended in history, with jumpers coming from all 50 states and all corners of the globe to take advantage of the lax building security and the New York City Police Department's promise not to talk anyone down. At press time, 18,755 people had jumped off the Empire State Building . . . In what has become one of the event's longstanding traditions, members of the clean-up crew often allow children to operate the power washers used to spray off the concrete after each set of 200 suicides."