



Martin O'Malley, Governor
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
**Department of Public Safety and
Correctional Services**
Gary D. Maynard, Secretary
**Police and Correctional Training
Commissions**
Charles W. Rapp, Executive Director

Volume 4, Issue 3

February 2, 2010

“The only true equalisers in the world are books; the only treasure-house open to all comers is a library; the only wealth which will not decay is knowledge; the only jewel which you can carry beyond the grave is wisdom.”

~J. A. Langford

What's New?

We have received two new DVD programs from the In the Line of Duty series that are now catalogued and available for checkout.

Volume 13, Program 1 is entitled “Amber Alert Pursuit”/“James Dean’s Final Ride” and Volume 13, Program 2 is entitled “Off-Duty Walgreen’s Groundfight”/“Waiter Tasered.” The first runs 35 minutes and the second is just a bit shorter.

Feel free to come by the library to borrow one or both of these new programs.

National Rifle Association

NRA Range Source Book: A Guide to Planning & Construction, published by the National Rifle Association arrived in the library at the end of December. This massive binder looks at safety, planning, design, indoor and outdoor

requirements, etc., for shooting ranges and will serve as an excellent reference tool for the agency. It comes with a companion CD.

This resource will be catalogued into our *Reference* collection which means that it can **ONLY** be used in the library or in-house (i.e., someone’s office) for the day.

MSP

Among the many things found at the Circulation Desk in the library are the Maryland State Police Patrol Log and its companion Administrative Log. If you should need to refer to one volume or the other, don’t hesitate to stop and ask to see the one you need.

Meeting in the Library

Before planning a meeting in the library or in H183, please remember to check the weekly calendar that Dawn Eyler sends to all staff. Space for meetings listed there has been arranged through Joanne Cunningham, and reserving in advance helps to minimize overlaps and space conflicts.

More on the Christmas Bomber

Officials: Misspelling in database allowed Christmas bomber to go undetected.

Intelligence databases lack the ability to perform Google-like searches via work computers.

By Chuck Bennett
The New York Post

WASHINGTON — The nation's most sophisticated intelligence databases lack the "Google-like" ability to decipher misspelled words, counterterrorism officials sheepishly admitted yesterday on Capitol Hill.

"We do not have that exact capacity," said National Counterterrorism Center Director Michael Leiter when asked to explain how a misspelling of al Qaeda-trained underwear bomber Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab's name in government files allowed the plot to go undetected.

Abdulmutallab's father told US Embassy officials in Abuja, Nigeria, that he suspected his son was mixed up with Yemeni terrorists, but a State Department employee misspelled his name in a database entry.

The databases "have blind spots that don't allow the sort of Google-like [searches] we have from our own computers," said Dennis Blair, the director of national intelligence.

With the name misspelled, analysts were unable to correlate the father's tip with an electronic intercept of a Yemeni militant message that mentioned Abdulmutallab's first name.

Both Leiter — who came under fire for taking a weeklong ski trip the day after the failed Christmas Day bombing attempt aboard Northwest Flight 253 — and Blair told the Senate Homeland Security Committee they expect a technical solution to be in place within weeks.

In another stunner before the committee, it was revealed that the Obama administration failed to consult with the nation's top three terror officials — Leiter, Blair and Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano — before a decision was made to put Abdulmutallab in the hands of a civilian court.

Blair also said that a new terror task force, the High-Value Detainee Interrogation Group, or HIG, was not called in to question Abdulmutallab before he was turned over to civilian authorities.

Blair told the committee, "That unit was created exactly for this purpose. We did not invoke the HIG in this case. We should have."

And though Blair's office later backed off his statements and put out a notice praising the FBI's interrogation of Abdulmutallab, the revelation shocked senators on the committee.

"That is very troubling," said Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine).

"It appears to me that we lost an opportunity to secure some valuable intelligence information, and that the process that Director Blair described should have been implemented in this case. And I think it's very troubling that it was not, and that three key intelligence officials were not asked their opinion."

The revelations were more examples of the lack of coordination and technological innovation by counterterrorism officials nearly 8 1/2 years after 9/11.

Blair also said that adding suspected terrorists to the "no-fly list" was overly burdensome because of legal hurdles and too many "Why are you searching grandmothers?" complaints.

"I should not have given in to that pressure," Blair said. "Shame on us for giving in to that pressure."

Abdulmutallab was placed on an unwieldy watch list of 400,000 names that had no impact on his travel to the United States.

Meanwhile, during a separate hearing by the Senate Judiciary Committee, FBI Director Robert Mueller defended his agency's handling of Abdulmutallab.

But Senate Republicans ripped into Mueller, saying Abdulmutallab, 23, should have been turned over to military authorities.

"We don't know what that individual knows, learned while he was working with al Qaeda, and we may never know, because he now has got a lawyer who's telling him to be quiet," said Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-Ala.), the ranking member of the committee.

Acting without instruction from higher-ups, the FBI agents who met Flight 253 on the ground in Detroit charged Abdulmutallab criminally, rather than give him to the military.

"It sounds to me like the guys on the ground just made a decision on the fly," Sessions said.

*(reprinted from the **Homeland1 Newsletter**, January 21, 2010, week 88)*

libraries are a "good investment?"

Did you know that...

- reference librarians in U.S. public and academic libraries answer nearly 5.7 million questions each week? If these people stood in a single file line, that line would stretch from Long Island, New York to Juneau, Alaska.
- in 1815, Congress approved the purchase, by the Library of Congress, of Thomas Jefferson's personal library of almost 6500 books for \$23,950?
- that in Maryland, 90% of its citizens think that public