

CAMPAIGN NEWS DIGEST

JUNE 2010

SUBWAY BAGGAGE SCREENING

SUBWAY USERS in New York City are now being screened to heighten security on city trains. The Transportation Security Administration and the New York City Police Department are conducting random baggage checks at many local subway stations. The screening teams take a sample from passengers' bags, and put the sample into a machine that analyzes it for explosives.

So far, commuters have been cooperative about being searched. Passengers interviewed were generally in favour of the additional screening measures, reporting that it made them feel safer, as long as the searches were random and not targeted at specific ethnic groups. Many New Yorkers interviewed reported that they were willing to be checked to reduce the risk of terrorism, however, they would object to losing a lot of time in the process.

Authorities have emphasized that this operation is not a response to any specific threat to mass transit in the city, rather a measure to strengthen overall security.

TAX SCAM UNVEILED

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS led by the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation, the FBI, and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service have uncovered a massive tax fraud conspiracy in the United States, concluding a three-year investigation.

At present, a 29-year old hacker has been indicted and charged with conspiracy, wire fraud, identity theft, unauthorized access of a computer with the intent to defraud, and mail fraud.

The hacker took the names and social security numbers of a number of deceased taxpayers, and used their identities to file fraudulent income tax returns. He then received tax refunds from the government for each of these taxpayers. The hacker used highly sophisticated computer intrusion techniques.

When \$68,000 in fraudulently obtained tax refunds were shipped to an apartment in Palo Alto, CA., investigators were able to seize the hacker's computers, false identification documents, and false identification manufacturing equipment. From these belongings, they were able to identify the hacker by fingerprint analysis.

SPENDING IN AFGHANISTAN

NATO FOREIGN MINISTERS recently agreed to launch the NATO Afghan First Policy. The policy aims to strengthen NATO's contribution to the economic development of Afghanistan and is the first of its kind in the history of NATO operations. It also represents a long-term investment in Afghanistan.

NATO and ISAF (International Security Assistance Force) will support the local economy by procuring local goods, and employing Afghan labourers for jobs. Qualified Afghan companies can now compete for NATO-ISAF contracts, and the winning companies will provide their goods and services to NATO-ISAF. They must, however, comply with NATO standards for security, quality and price.

FOSTER HOMES FOR WAR VETS

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS has introduced a program to assist chronically ill or disabled military veterans who can no longer care for themselves. Many of these veterans do not want to move to a traditional nursing home or an assisted-living facility; this program offers them a safe home-like alternative.

The caregivers are members of the community who want to take a veteran into their private home long-term. They provide the veterans with round-the-clock supervision, and personal care including bathing, feeding, and assistance with medication. Veterans pay for room and board, while the government covers the costs of the visits from health-care providers such as nurses, therapists, pharmacists, counsellors and other professionals.

The program may soon be available for injured troops who cannot live independently, but are too young to move to a nursing home.

TSA Joins NYPD in Subway Baggage Screening, *Homeland Security Newswire*, April 22, 2010, <http://homelandsecuritynewswire.com/tsa-joins-nypd-subway-baggage-screening>

Hornbuckle, Wyn., Hacker Indicted in Massive Tax, Mail, and Wire Fraud Scheme, *U.S. Department of Justice Crime & Intellectual Property Section*, April 8, 2010

<http://www.justice.gov/criminal/cybercrime/rigmaidenIndict.pdf>

NATO Ministers Launch Afghan First Policy, *ISAF Public Affairs*, April 23, 2010 <http://www.isaf.nato.int/en/article/news/nato-ministers-launch-afghan-first-policy.html>

Simon, Stephanie, Happier Vets, Lower costs, *Wall Street Journal*, April 13, 2010

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703909804575124451841717276.html>

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Student Worksheet

Task 1: pre-reading vocabulary

Before reading the articles, match the words on the left to the definitions on the right.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1 to screen | a) lodging and meals |
| 2 random | b) unable to function after an injury or illness |
| 3 transit | c) to buy or obtain |
| 4 fraud | d) a course of action agreed by a government |
| 5 hacker | e) the crime of tricking people out of money |
| 6 to file | f) to follow or conform to rules |
| 7 policy | g) a person who illegally breaks into another computer system |
| 8 to procure | h) to take official action |
| 9 to comply | i) chosen or happening without any particular method or purpose |
| 10 disabled | j) to examine methodically, to check |
| 11 room and board | k) a person responsible for attending to the needs of a child or dependent adult |
| 12 caregiver | l) a system of buses and trains within a city |

Task 2: comprehension check

Decide if the following sentences are true (*T*) or false (*F*).

- 1 Police and transit authorities are randomly inspecting bags that passengers carry onto the subways.
- 2 New Yorkers do not want to comply with the new security measures.
- 3 Members of a California community have been arrested for tax evasion.
- 4 There is no physical evidence linking the hacker to the crime.
- 5 The NATO Afghan First Policy aims to increase local procurement of goods and services.
- 6 NATO is allowing Afghan companies to compete for NATO-ISAF contracts.
- 7 The US government is no longer covering the cost of nursing homes for veterans.
- 8 Caregivers take care of elderly veterans in their own homes with outside help from medical professionals.

Task 3: discussion

The second story in this month's Campaign News Digest shows how the success of any operation is made possible by strong cooperation between law enforcement agencies. You are going to write and give a speech to thank your colleagues for their excellent work.

Task 4: writing

The fourth story in this month's CND relates to medical issues in the service. You are going to write a letter to the Department of Veterans' Affairs requesting information about the Medical Foster Home program. Imagine you have just returned from a mission and are temporarily disabled. Describe your personal situation and needs, and request information about available services and facilities.

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Teacher's Notes

Task 1: pre-reading vocabulary

Before reading the articles, match the words on the left to a definition on the right. Encourage students to try to deduce the meaning of the words from the context using clues from the text.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1 to screen | j) to examine methodically, to check |
| 2 random | i) chosen or happening without any particular method or purpose |
| 3 transit | l) a system of buses and trains within a city |
| 4 fraud | e) the crime of tricking people out of money |
| 5 hacker | g) a person who illegally breaks into another computer system |
| 6 to file | h) to take official action |
| 7 policy | d) a course of action agreed by a government |
| 8 to procure | c) to buy or obtain |
| 9 to comply | f) to follow or conform to rules |
| 10 disabled | b) unable to use part of your body or mind properly after an injury or illness |
| 11 room and board | a) lodging and meals |
| 12 caregiver | k) a person responsible for attending to the needs of a child or dependent adult |

Task 2: comprehension check: short answer questions

Decide if the following sentences are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 True
- 2 False. They support the searches because it helps to keep the potential threat away.
- 3 False. A hacker was arrested for filing fraudulent income tax returns.
- 4 False. The hacker was indicted after being identified by his fingerprints on the computer seized by authorities.
- 5 True
- 6 True
- 7 False. Veterans can choose to stay in a medical foster home if they do not want to go into a nursing home.
- 8 True

Task 3: discussion

This exercise aims to develop some of the techniques required to write and deliver a speech, and improve students' confidence in communicating in a professional context.

As a lead-in, brainstorm some memorable historic speeches. What qualities make them effective speeches? Elicit how the best speakers use more than words to deliver their message.

Tell students they are going to write, rehearse, and deliver a formal speech to thank colleagues who they have been cooperating with. Elicit the general structure of a thank you speech on the board. Use the standard three-part speech structure:

Opening: introduce yourself and the subject of your speech

Body: develop your subject

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Conclusion: summarise.

Collect ideas on the board to help students with the content of their speeches. Main points might include:

- thanking your audience
- thanking your colleagues /organisations who made the operation a success
- describing the importance of the operation
- a short story (such as something memorable about the success of the operation / your aspirations).

You may want to revise language functions (such as expressing thanks, greeting, introducing, welcoming, congratulating and taking leave) before students begin the task.

Give the students some time to write their speeches. As students work independently, go around the class and offer input as needed. Give the students some time to rehearse their speeches by themselves until they feel confident. Encourage students to invest a little personality in their speeches.

Put the students into pairs and ask them to give their speeches. The listeners should try to provide feedback keeping in mind several important aspects of presentation:

What is the speaker's message?

- Is the speech appropriate for the audience? (language, content and tone)
- Does the speaker clearly state the purpose of the speech?
- Is the speech organised and easy to follow?
- Is delivery effective (clarity, speech volume, body language, eye-contact)?

If you have the time, ask students to give their speeches to the class. Students should make any adjustments to their speeches and rehearse again. Encourage them to use cue cards rather than their written scripts so that they can focus more on speaking fluency and spontaneity.

Students can use this recent Homeland Security thank you speech as a model from this website: <http://www.politicsdaily.com/2010/05/04/transcript-of-news-conference-by-eric-holder-and-janet-napolitano/print/> (scroll down to Secretary Napolitano's speech). If the Internet is not available in your classroom, you could access the website before the lesson and print out the page for your students.

Task 4: writing

This purpose of this exercise is to practice writing a formal letter.

As a lead-in, brainstorm the services that are important to provide to disabled troops who are temporarily unable to remain in their own homes. You can use this website for ideas: http://www.minneapolis.va.gov/services/serv_fosterhome.asp

If the Internet is not available in your classroom, you could access the website before the lesson and print out the page for your students.

You may want to revise formal letter writing before your students begin the task.

If you do have the Internet in the classroom, you may want to introduce this activity by asking the students to listen to the Federal News Radio report describing the Medical Foster Homes program. Alternatively, you could close the activity by listening to and discussing the report.

<http://www.federalnewsradio.com/?nid=15&sid=1944672>

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