



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

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*“When people think of a library, they sometimes think of a particular structure or a room from their past. More often, when asked to think of a library, people will think of a librarian who worked there. A circulation desk where they were greeted. A story time where they learned the magic of reading. A book that was recommended by that helpful person behind the desk. A library seems like a building, but it is actually a process, and a main feature of that process is that the library's staff is there to help.”*

*~Andy Barnett. Libraries, Community, and Technology. Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, 2002, p. 88*

\*(retrieved from <http://marylaine.com/exlibris/cool.html>, accessed on 10/5/10)



**These just in...**

We have recently added three new DVDs to the collection that are part of the *Live Response Series* and that originate from the National Terrorism Preparedness Institute in St. Petersburg, FL. The newest titles are: The National Domestic Preparedness Consortium: Training America's First Responders (DVD 363.325 NAT); Severe Weather Alert: Disaster Management When the Power Goes Out (DVD 363.34 SEV); and H1N1 and Training Needs Assistance Project (DVD 363.325 HON).

All three are ready and available for checkout at your local library circulation desk.

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**Just a Reminder**

Periodically I send out a reminder about our subscription database, **Criminal Justice Periodicals Index (CJPI)**, which is another important informational tool for instructors and students alike. For those of you who have joined our agency more recently, this database provides access (by author, title, subject, keyword, etc.) to over 240 journals that focus on the general topic area of criminal justice. You can locate articles in newspapers, in professional or scholarly journals, and in other sources. A large portion of the articles in this database come with full text, meaning that the whole article is available for you to see online. The ones that are not will offer an abstract and the source from which they can be identified.

To explore **CJPI** on your own, click on the following link: <http://proquest.umi.com/login>. You can add it to your list of favorites as well,

making it that much easier to check on a regular basis.

If you have any questions about the database, please contact me at x3544. I'd be interested to know from you readers out there whether you use [CJPI](#) and how useful you find it to be. That information is always helpful when it's time to renew a subscription of this kind.

Thanks for your input.

## **In the News**

### **Euro terror alert spotlights voiceprint technology\***

The British eavesdropping agency GCHQ deployed voice identification software to help uncover the plot

By Raphael G. Satter  
The Associated Press

**LONDON** — Did their voices betray them? The discovery of an alleged terror plot against Europe owes at least some of its success to "voiceprint" technology that allows law enforcement to electronically match a voice to its owner.

The technique — which some compare to fingerprinting — can be a powerful anti-terror tool, officials increasingly believe. Law enforcement agencies are already considering how a voice database could help thwart future plots.

The reported plot against European cities, in which suspects allegedly spoke of a Mumbai-style shooting spree, has triggered travel warnings and refocused attention on al-Qaida activities on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, where several of the voices were recorded.

The British eavesdropping agency GCHQ deployed voice identification software to help uncover the plot that officials say has targeted Germany, Britain and France — with famed sites such as Notre Dame Cathedral and the Eiffel Tower under close surveillance.

"Advances in these types of technology have been key in thwarting plots and catching suspects," a British government official told

The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of his work.

Despite progress made in quashing the plot, officials still speak of an ongoing threat.

Police in southern France on Tuesday arrested 12 suspects in sweeps against suspected Islamic militant networks, including three men linked to a network recruiting fighters for Afghanistan.

In one of the cases, nine suspected Islamic militants were detained in southeastern Marseille and its suburbs, and authorities turned up at least one automatic rifle and a pump gun, the officials said.

In Tuesday's other roundup, two men were arrested in Marseille and another in southwestern Bordeaux on suspected ties to a Frenchman arrested in Naples, Italy, last month accused of links to an Afghan recruiting ring.

Officials in Germany were tightlipped Tuesday on details of a U.S. missile strike in Pakistan's rugged mountain border area where Pakistani officials said eight German militants were killed.

U.S. officials believe a cell of Germans and Britons was at the heart of the Europe terror plot. Germany's ARD public television cited unidentified sources Tuesday as saying four of the Germans killed in the missile attack were of Turkish descent.

Developers of voice biometric technology say it can be more useful than traditional fingerprint analysis in fighting terror.

"You have potential for there to be a larger database for criminals' voices than their fingerprints. What are the chances that you'll get a foreign terrorist's fingerprint versus a foreign terror suspect's voiceprint?" said Germano Di Mambro, who runs Wellesley, Massachusetts-based Porticus Technology Inc.

Supporters point to several other high-profile successes in voiceprinting. Colombian drug kingpin Juan Carlos Ramirez Abadia, who used plastic surgery and multiple aliases to dodge authorities, was arrested in 2007 after the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency matched his voice to a tape recording previously made by Colombian authorities.

But academics in the field of speech processing have offered caution.

In a 2003 paper presented to a conference in Geneva, several experts warned that there was no scientific way of identifying a person's voice with absolute certainty.

Frederic Bimbot, one of the paper's authors, said the term "voiceprinting" was a misnomer because it suggested that the technique was as reliable as fingerprinting.

"This is absolutely not the case," his paper said, noting that, unlike a person's prints, voices are highly variable — changing according to age, health, and emotional state. When contacted through e-mail late Monday, he said his opinion had not changed.

Voices can also be altered voluntarily, he said, adding that, at present the technology was simply "not mature enough to enable definite conclusions of any kind."

Whatever its reliability, voice biometrics have drawn considerable interest from governments around the world.

Only a month after the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks, the Pentagon identified voiceprints as one of the dozens of priority areas in research and development, and it has been used in the field since the invasion of Iraq, according to former U.S. officials, who spoke condition of anonymity to describe classified technology.

Interpol is also interested in voice biometrics, the head of its fingerprint unit told the AP.

Mark Branchflower, head of Interpol's fingerprint unit, said voice samples could be stored and shared with Interpol's 188 member countries via its secure global communications network.

The private sector has already embraced the technology, with U.S. probation officers using it to monitor offenders, and Canadian call centers using it to identify customers. Israel's largest bank, Bank Leumi, says it has been using voice biometrics for the past decade to deter fraud and boost customer safety.

The technology has strong potential for streamlining intelligence operations, experts say.

U.S. and British intelligence run an international eavesdropping program that gathers huge amounts of information. So big is the overload that the National Security Agency is building a massive

storage center in Utah to handle the mountains of data.

Almog Aley-Raz, whose Israel-based company PerSay Ltd. supplies governments and businesses around the world, said that using voice biometrics could allow officials to scan a large number of phone conversations for a several suspects' voices, greatly streamlining intelligence work.

"An entry-level server enables you to run 100 streams of audio against maybe 100 voiceprints," he said, noting that in some cases dozens or even hundreds of servers could be run back-to-back to comb through intercepted calls.

Aley-Raz accepted that the technology had its flaws — it is vulnerable to background noise and poor audio quality, for example, and can become confused when people start talking over one another.

"It's just another tool," he said — but one that can point terror-hunters in the right direction.

Associated Press Writers Paisley Dodds in London, Frank Bajak in Bogota, Colombia, Tia Goldenberg in Jerusalem and Melissa Eddy in Berlin contributed to this report.

**\*This article appeared in the Homeland1Newsletter of October 7, 2010, Week 125.**

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## **Looking for a fun read?**



Many of you may recall that the library has a collection of leisure-time reading. Please consider coming in to look for something to get you through the weekend or to read at night.

If any of you have books that you would consider donating to our FUN READING collection (**hardbacks only**), please contact me at x3544 or by e-mail.

Thanks for considering a donation to our FUN READING collection so that our staff has a greater variety of materials to pick from.

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### **Also received**

Unfortunately, this book did not arrive prior to our Instructors' Conference but we now have a copy of Ken Bain's What the Best College Teachers Do. It can be found on the shelf at **378.1 BAI** and should make for some useful, insightful reading. Feel free to take a look and check it out.

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*Wishing you and your families a happy and safe Halloween!!!*

