

New security devices show all

Hand-held version could find a gun from 60 feet away.

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — The next generation of weapons detectors is deadly accurate, able to look through clothes to find guns, explosives and even syringes and drug vials that can be tucked into rolls of fat.

About the size of a voting booth, a machine manufactured by Nicolet Imaging Systems of San Diego goes

beyond metal detectors to show any solid object. It is being tested at North Carolina's Central Prison and the federal courthouse in Los Angeles.

Capt. Marshall Hudson, a corrections officer, said the \$100,000 machine is capable of showing shin bones near the skin and even a person's private parts on the "uncloak mode." The device uses very low-level X-rays, he said.

While police groups are intrigued, civil libertarians are concerned because the same technology is being developed by other manufacturers into

a hand-held model, which will enable police to detect a weapon hidden under someone's clothing up to 60 feet away.

"It becomes a question of how intrusive they are," said Mark Kappelhoff, legislative counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union.

But officials who represent police officers disagreed.

"Anything that enhances public safety and officer safety, we're for," said Jim Pasco, executive director of the Fraternal Order of Police, the nation's largest police group.

Social security information online; privacy is in danger, critics say

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP) — The financial status of millions of Americans is now available on the Internet by looking up Social Security records.

The development worries critics who say privacy rights are being sacrificed.

The Social Security Administration went online a month ago, making it easier for taxpayers to look up their records. But the system also allows easy snooping.

"As soon as crooks start exploiting this service to get other people's information, Social Security is going to have a real problem on its hands," said Evan Hendricks, chairman of the

U.S. Privacy Council in Washington.

Social Security officials said the dangers are minimal. "We have confidence that in the huge majority of cases, the people requesting these things are the right people," said John Sabo, head of electronic services in the Social Security Administration.

The agency said the new system can save millions of dollars that it costs to mail financial reports to taxpayers who request the information about themselves.

Beth Givens, manager of the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse in San Diego, said it is easy to abuse the system by obtaining the Social Security

numbers of others and using them to gain online access to the records.

There are various types of potential abuse: potential employers could get the salary history of job applicants; co-workers could determine how much fellow employees make; landlords could use the information to determine whether someone can afford an apartment.

"It would be a tremendous asset to people who know how to obtain this information," said Paddy Calabrese, owner of a Seattle detective agency. "If somebody calls me up and says they want to know somebody's income, I just pop into this thing. I charge them \$2,000 and it costs me nothing."

Clinton selects Atlanta activist as AIDS policy head

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton Monday selected the former director of an Atlanta AIDS organization to be his AIDS adviser, saying the nation must continue to strive for a cure for the deadly virus.

Clinton chose Sandy Thurman as head of the Office of AIDS Policy, calling her a person "who tells it like it is. She speaks the truth unvarnished. She won't hold back in this office. She is passionate. She is committed. She is difficult to say no to."

He continued: "America has not beaten AIDS yet, but we've gotten closer."

In a brief Roosevelt Room ceremony, Thurman told Clinton, "The epidemic is not over and we must not — will not — rest until HIV is eradicated."

"This is not an epidemic of a few," she said. "This is an epidemic of us all."

Thurman is a longtime AIDS activist and member of the president's AIDS advisory panel. She served as executive director of AID Atlanta from 1988 to 1993 and as director of a task force on child survival and development for The Carter Center from 1993 to 1996.

Thurman is also director of citizen exchanges at the United States Information Agency.

The Human Rights Campaign, a gay and lesbian advocacy group, commended the selection, calling Thurman "a solid choice to take the Office of National AIDS policy to the next level."

But ACT UP, a radical gay activist's group, called Thurman a "Democratic Party insider" who is the latest in a series of "ineffective, no-name bureaucrats" to be named AIDS adviser by Clinton.

Nation/World

from the Associated Press

Teen-ager shot, killed in confrontation with police

NEW YORK — A 16-year-old boy was fatally shot in the back after he threatened two officers with a machete, police said Monday.

An autopsy showed that a bullet entered Kevin Cedeno's back and exited his front lower torso. Cedeno, the father of a 5-month-old son, was pronounced dead at a hospital.

Officers Anthony Pellegrini, 25, and Mike Garcia, 36, answered a 911 call early Sunday. Pellegrini fired a single shot after the teen-ager "threatened officers with a machete," said police spokesman Detective Mark Patterson.

Police Commissioner Howard Safir said Cedeno was shot in the back, but it was too early to say whether Pellegrini acted properly. Police have said the officer feared for his life. He was not suspended.

Cedeno was on probation for an armed robbery and had prior arrests as a juvenile, Patterson said.

The shooting, which was being investigated by the police department's Internal Affairs Division, happened in the same Washington Heights neighborhood that in 1992 erupted into several nights of arson and violence after an officer shot a reputed drug dealer.

Soldier pleads guilty to improper sex charges

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. — A former drill instructor pleaded guilty Monday to having sex, in violation of Army rules, with 11 trainees, but denied charges he raped eight women under his command.

Staff Sgt. Delmar Simpson, 32, said he had sex with subordinates in his office, his home and at a hotel on another military base. In most cases, he said, the sex was initiated either by the woman or by both partners.

"She would come to my office and we would engage in conversation and one thing would just lead to another, sir," he told a military judge, describing one encounter.

The 13-year enlisted man pleaded guilty to a total of 16 counts alleging he had sex or otherwise engaged in improper conduct toward a subordinate at the Ordnance Center and School at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Each of the charges carries up to two years in prison and dishonorable discharge.

Simpson is one of 11 instructors charged with sexual misconduct at Aberdeen Proving Ground, about 30 miles northeast of Baltimore. The scandal led to an investigation into sexual misconduct at U.S. military bases worldwide.

Astronauts work by flashlight on returning shuttle

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Forced to fly on only two-thirds power, space shuttle Columbia's astronauts squeezed in as many experiments as possible Monday, working by flashlight before closing their lab for an early return to Earth.

The seven astronauts might have been able to fly the entire 16-day science mission if NASA had halted the countdown Friday and replaced a faulty electric generator that had been giving unusual voltage readings hours before liftoff.

That generator slowly lost voltage in orbit — a situation that can cause an explosion — and forced NASA to cut short the \$500 million-plus mission.

The Lighter Side...

of The Associated Press



MATT HANEY/DN

Thief hot for a cop gets more than a date

JERUSALEM — Answering a call on a mobile phone he had just stolen in a break-in, a gullible thief succumbed to the seductive voice on the line and unknowingly made a date with the law.

Police First Sgt. Major Yardena Rahamim said she initially called the suspect after the break-in in Haifa on Saturday just to "get an idea of who he was."

"In the course of ad-libbing I realized he was friendly, so I spontaneously pretended I was a lonely girl from a conservative village who wanted to go out. I realized he was hot for me so I arranged a meeting and he fell for it," she said.

Dressed in plainclothes, Rahamim met the man, who approached her enthusiastically, smelling strongly of after-shave. But his amorous mood was soon dampened when the date turned into an arrest.

The suspect, a 22-year-old Israeli who was not identified, had driven to the rendezvous in a car stolen in the break-in, along with the phone. Rahamim said thousands of dollars worth of stolen property were in the car.

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