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# E-Briefs

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Nigeria Becomes World Piracy 'Hotspot'

With its prized oil industry a particular target, Nigeria has become the number one "hotspot" for world piracy. The country is poorly equipped to defend against pirates who ply the seas with modern weapons and skilled tacticians. The pirates have speedboats, heavy machine guns, and radio systems to coordinate their attacks. The International Maritime Bureau reports that Nigeria accounted for 10 of the 49 attacks registered worldwide in the first quarter of 2008, more than 20%. In January, French maritime company Bourbon suspended activities on the Bonny river, a strategic stretch of water for oil companies operating in the Delta, after an attack on one of its vessels chartered by Shell. The pirates also use their speedboats to launch lightning raids on banks in towns along the coast.

### Transportation Security Administration to Test ID-Only Check of Pilots

The Transportation Security Administration will conduct a test this summer that, if successful, may no longer require the country's 75,000 pilots to be screened for weapons before getting on an airplane. At three test airports, yet to be selected, pilots will bypass passenger checkpoints and go to different checkpoints where a screener will only ask to see their airline ID and will use a pilot database with pictures to verify the ID. Last summer, Congress approved an anti-terror law that told the TSA to allow pilots and flight attendants "expedited access through screening checkpoints." However, some critics, including flight attendants, worry that a terrorist carrying weapons can easily disguise themselves as pilots and skip passenger screening, which entails metal detectors and X-ray machines. "It shouldn't be demoralizing for anyone to spend the extra few minutes (getting screened)," said Corey Caldwell, spokeswoman for the Association of Flight Attendants. TSA assistant administrators John Sammon said terrorists using a stolen or fake pilot ID will be detected in the future test.

### Afghan Hijacker Found Working as Cleaner at Heathrow Airport

An Afghan man involved in a hijacking eight years ago was arrested after he was found working as a cleaner in the British Airways training center at Heathrow Airport in London. Nazamuddin Mohammidy has spent months employed by a company that has a contract to clean at the airport, though it is believed that his British Airways pass did not allow him airside access. Police stopped Mohammidy outside the new Terminal 5 at Heathrow because they believed he was an unlicensed taxi driver. They then learned that he was one of nine hijackers that took an Ariana Airlines flight hostage in 2000 and redirected it to Stansted Airport in Essex, England, where it took them four days to surrender. The group said they would murder the plane's 160 passengers unless they were given asylum. "There's got to be something seriously wrong with a country that lets a hijacker work at an airport," an anonymous source told The Sun. "It's shocking."

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

### A Matter of Security: Businesses Protect Against Inside Theft

A recent University of Florida study estimated that 47 percent of all theft at retail stores is committed by store employees. With the Justice Department estimating that insider theft may be growing by 15 percent a year, employers are implementing new technology to cut down on employee theft. The most commonly used security solution is a surveillance camera system, which allows employers to keep track of customers and constantly view cash and merchandise. One security consultant said that one of his largest customers is the restaurant industry, where wait staff steal from employers by not charging a customer for an item because they hope to receive a larger tip. Many thefts involve the criminals using copied keys provided by employees, a risk that can be reduced by switching from keys to electronic access cards. The biggest threat to security are janitorial employees because they have access to most locations. Low-level managers are also more likely to steal because they feel that they are underpaid for the amount of work they do. Employee theft can also harm consumers, such as when cashiers sometimes intentionally short-change a customer and keep the difference. Identity theft and credit card fraud is another concern because cashiers can double-swipe a credit card and steal the customer's financial information.

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