

NEWS BRIEFS

Remember Pearl Harbor – December 7, 1941

Today, we remember the attack at Pearl Harbor. The battle-scarred, submerged remains of the battleship USS Arizona rests on the silt of Pearl Harbor, just as they settled on December 7, 1941. The ship was one of many casualties from the deadly attack by the Japanese on a quiet Sunday that President Franklin Roosevelt called "a date which will live in infamy." Several other ships and most Hawaii-based combat planes were also damaged or destroyed and over 2,400 Americans were killed. The Arizona's burning bridge and listing mast and superstructure were photographed in the aftermath of the Japanese attack, and news of her sinking was emblazoned on the front page of newspapers across the land. The photograph symbolized the destruction of the United States Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor and the start of a war that was to take many thousands of American lives. Indelibly impressed into the national memory, the image could be recalled by most Americans when they heard the battle cry, "Remember Pearl Harbor."

More than a million people visit the USS Arizona Memorial each year. They file quietly through the building and toss flower wreaths and leis into the water. They watch the iridescent slick of oil that still leaks, a drop at a time, from ruptured bunkers after more than 50 years at the bottom of the sea, and they read the names of the dead carved in marble on the Memorial's walls.

TSA: All Fliers Are Now Checked

According to Transportation Security Administration Chief John Pistole, the U.S. has fully implemented the Secure Flight program, which aims to stop terrorists attacks on airplanes by collecting more detailed information about airline passengers when they purchase their tickets. Under the program, passengers on domestic flights and international passengers flying to or from the U.S. are required to submit their full name, birth date, and sex to the airline they wish to fly on. The information is then forwarded to the TSA and is compared with terrorism watch lists. Those whose names appear on the terrorist watch list will be required to see a counter agent when they arrive at the airport. Some individuals will then be prohibited from flying, while others will be allowed to fly, Pistole said. He added that the collection of the data will help reduce the number of airline passengers who are wrongly identified as being terrorists. In addition, the program will help authorities know when several people on the watch list are headed to the same destination, Pistole said. This in turn will allow authorities to place air marshals on the flight and to alert officials at the destination, Pistole noted.

"Skimming" at ATM's Becoming Even More Rampant

Debit-card fraud and Identity theft continues to rise as criminals increasingly target banks' automated teller machines to "skim" card information and personal-identification numbers. Avivah Litan, fraud analyst at research firm Gartner, estimates that fraud involving debit cards, PINs, and point-of-sale equipment has risen 400 percent in the past five years. Criminals often place skimmers on outdoor ATMs on Saturday mornings and remove them by Monday morning, passing on the stolen data within hours. In previous years, most fraud occurred at independent ATMs or at retail points of sale; but according to fraud-detection software provider Fair Isaac, fraud at bank-owned ATMs made up more than 80 percent of the breaches in the first six months of 2010. Attacks on retailers are also on the rise, with card numbers, cardholder names, and PINs being skimmed from payment terminals. One tactic being used by criminals is a "flash attack," in which gangs use stolen information to create counterfeit debit cards. The gangs then dispatch members to hundreds of ATMs in several cities at once, each withdrawing a small dollar amount that adds up to tens of thousands of dollars in losses. Some skimming devices mimic legitimate security equipment and are able to fit inside ATM card readers and small pinhead-sized cameras record hands punching PIN numbers. Many consumers and even some banks cannot tell that a machine has been compromised. Some countries have adopted so-called chip-and-PIN debit cards that have an added layer of protection, but U.S. banks and retailers are hesitant to adopt the technology because of the expense involved.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

'Tis the Season...For Protecting Yourself!

As the Holidays draw near, people are heading out to area shopping centers to stock up on gifts. What they may not realize is that criminals are heading to those same areas to do a little "shopping" of their own. Here are a few tips to help you keep from becoming a victim:

- **Do not leave items of value in plain view inside your vehicle.** A thief will look for things like cell phones, radios, briefcases, laptops, purses, packages, CDs, GPS devices, and other stuff that means quick cash for them. Even loose change could attract a thief. Take anything that looks valuable with you or secure it in the trunk.
- **Always lock your vehicle with the windows rolled up.** Almost half the thefts that occur are from an unlocked vehicle. If a target is too hard, the thief will often move on.
- **Know when and where to place valuables in your trunk.** Criminals could be watching you arrive at your parking destination – so if you use your trunk to secure valuables, do so well before you park.
- **If you have an anti-theft device, use it.** Criminals like to work fast and quietly; so they do not like an alarm being set, or a steering wheel "club" being put in place correctly.
- **Do not leave your keys in your unoccupied vehicle.** Even in a second, a thief could hop in your ride and be gone. They like to hang at convenience stores and they do not care if your kids have to go for a ride too.
- **Remove GPS units/electronics as well as their indicators (mounts/chargers, etc...)** Knowing people will simply place the device in the console or glove box, if a criminal sees indicators, they will often still break in and take their chances. Once they have your GPS, they know where you live and frequent.

ALERTS



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