

Business/News

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Interrogators at Guantanamo instructed not to advise detainees of rights, FBI agent says

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba (AP) — An FBI agent testifying at the first Guantanamo war crimes trial said interrogators did not advise detainees here of any rights because the military prison is dedicated to intelligence gathering, not law enforcement.

Agent Ali Soufan, an al-Qaida expert and star witness for the prosecution, said Tuesday the Guantanamo Bay Navy base is the only place in the world where he has not informed suspects of a right against self-incrimination.

"The way it was explained to us is Guantanamo Bay is an intelligence collection point," he said.

Defense lawyers asked the judge in Salim Hamdan's trial to throw out all the Guantanamo interrogations, arguing that intelligence-gathering sessions should not be used against him in court. But Judge Keith Allred, a Navy captain, ruled Monday that constitutional protections against self-incrimination do not apply to the man declared an "enemy combatant."

Hamdan, a former driver for Osama bin Laden, is charged with conspiracy and aiding terrorism. His lawyers have cast him as a low-level employee of the terrorist leader without any role in al-Qaida.



Salim Hamdan

Secret Service wants more money for candidates

By EILEEN SULLIVAN, Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Secret Service has asked for an extra \$9.5 million to cover unexpected costs of protecting the presidential candidates during what has turned into an historic year for the agency's campaign security job.

Among other things, the extra money would be used for the added costs for the candidates' international travel and a late-in-the-game decision by Barack Obama to accept the Democratic nomination at Denver's Invesco Field at Mile High — an open-air, 76,000-seat stadium — instead of the 20,000-seat Pepsi Center, which is the site of the party's national convention.

Presidential candidates are traveling overseas with Secret Service protection more than ever before.

Obama is on a six-day trip to Jordan, Israel, Germany, France and Britain. Before that he was on a three-day congressionally sponsored trip to Afghanistan and Iraq. Republican candidate John McCain has traveled to Canada, Colombia and Mexico under the agency's protection.

The 2008 presidential campaign cycle is the longest in Secret

Service history by about five months. The Secret Service budgeted \$106.65 million for the 2008 campaign cycle, compared to \$73.3 million in 2004.

"I thought we had a very, very good plan in place for the campaign," Secret Service Director Mark Sullivan said in an interview with The Associated Press earlier this week. "If past history was any type of an indicator, we anticipated picking up protection somewhere in January, February, March of 2008."

"But the campaigns are different now," Sullivan said.

Obama received Secret Service protection on May 3, 2007 — the earliest the agency has ever stepped in to protect a candidate. Obama, who frequently draws crowds in the thousands at campaign stops, requested the protection. At the time, the Secret Service and Homeland Security officials said they were not aware of any threats to the senator.

McCain picked up protection on April 27 of this year.

During the 2008 campaign, the agency has protected candidates on about 1,500 trips; and each trip has included three to eight stops. To secure the candidates on these trips, the Secret Service has used about 2,200 magnetometers to screen about 1.5 million people.

The crowds have also been larger than expected. For instance, on May 18, in Portland, Ore., an Obama event was expected to draw 20,000. But instead, 75,000 showed, the Secret Service said. And Thursday, in Berlin, Germany, Obama drew a crowd of about 200,000, according to local law enforcement.

These are not the first candidates to travel internationally. In 1984, then-Democratic hopeful Jesse Jackson traveled to three countries in Latin America, the Secret Service said.

"One of the things I've been most proud of is our work force, because it has been a long campaign, but they have been incredible, enthusiastic and just done a terrific job with the campaign," Sullivan said.

Congress is currently considering the request for additional funds, which was made earlier this summer. The money would be drawn from other programs within the Homeland Security Department, the Secret Service's parent agency.

The Secret Service was formed in 1865 to investigate counterfeit currency. It started protecting major presidential candidates in 1968.

How to keep your password safe

Carol Ray-Holmes
THE HOUSTON SUN



Carol Ray-Holmes

These days, if you want to take full benefits from using the internet, you simply have to sign up for websites (e-mail, shopping, etc.). There is no way around it. The more simple sites that require some interaction will have your account protected by a password that, most of the times, you are able to choose.

I have accounts in quite a few sites that command a username and password. I could have taken the easy way and choose the same username and password for each of them, but this is also the unsafe way. Identity theft is popular these days and having one identity for all those sites is, frankly, a very bad idea.

I chose to have the same username most of the time; however, the password is usually different. Since age is catching up with me, my memory is limited and if I did not have a tool to help me out, I would be locked out many times forgetting my passwords. And, frankly, some sites do not allow you to choose your own password; but

assign one randomly generated to you (lots of letters and numbers - strong password). What do you do to alleviate this problem?

There are a few tools out there to assist you on this. Usually, it's a software package that saves your usernames and passwords on a file and encrypts it using a master password. The excellent part of this is that a single password is all you have to remember.

Recently, Life Hack featured an article reviewing 10 free tools that you can use, for more information on these software packages, check out their site www.lifehack.org.

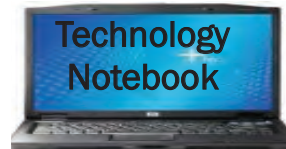
1. Firefox or IE
2. KeePass
3. Clipperz
4. OSX Keychain
5. KeyWallet
6. Password Manager Plus
7. Password Hasher
8. PasswordSafe
9. Password generator
10. Algorithm

Without trying to sound too technical, the features that make a KeePass of my software of choice are:

- Security is great
- Multiple User Keys
- It's portable and requires no installation
- Allows to export your database to some of the more common files (txt, html, csv, etc)
- Very easy to organize your

sites and passwords into groups
• Allows for auto-typing (completes forms automatically for you)
• Random Password generator
• Are these enough to get you convinced? Here's another one and the most important -IT'S FREE.

Feel free to go to the KeePass website, <http://keepass.info/>. In closing;



Keep this in mind when using passwords:

- Never provide your master password if you use a password manager.
- Don't write passwords on notepads or pieces of paper (please don't put a sticky on your computer)

Password managers may not be safe on a shared computer

Using common information for your password is not secure — such as your birthday, initials, kids' birthdays, names, etc. And no, "password" is not a safe password.

Be safe!

Carol Ray-Holmes is a new technology columnist for the Houston Sun. She has more than 20 years of computer and technology experience and we know that her column will be beneficial to our readers. You may send your questions to: tech@houstonsun.com and she will answer them in future columns.

Houston teen dies in alleged fight

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston police are investigating the stabbing death of a 17-year-old and whether a fight over a video game led to the attack.

Authorities detained the victim's

15-year-old brother in the murder investigation.

Police were called to an apartment late Wednesday.

Sgt. Phillip Munoz says the 15-year-old allegedly grabbed a knife

and stabbed his older brother. The wounded teen died at a Houston hospital.

The name of the victim was not immediately released.

House to vote on mortgage aid, Fannie Freddie rescue to calm housing market

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government would help struggling homeowners get new, cheaper loans and be allowed to offer troubled mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac a cash infusion as part of legislation that aims to calm the chaotic housing market.

The House was expected to vote on the bill Wednesday, and it could become law as early as this week.

The Bush administration and lawmakers in both parties teamed to

negotiate the measure, which pairs Democrats' top priorities — federal help for homeowners facing foreclosure and \$3.9 billion for neighborhoods hit hardest by the housing crisis — with Republicans' goal of reining in Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac while reassuring financial markets of their stability.

It hands the Treasury Department power to extend the government-sponsored mortgage companies an

unlimited line of credit and buy an unspecified amount of their stock, if necessary to prop up Fannie and Freddie. The two companies back or own \$5 trillion in U.S. mortgages — nearly half the nation's total.

Congressional analysts estimated Tuesday that the rescue could cost \$25 billion, but predicted there's a better than even chance it won't be needed at all.

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