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Ask Dr. Dice

Dr. Dice

Q: Seriously, Dr. Dice, it's not like anything bad is going to happen.

A: Clearly, you have not been following the world of government construction contracting, or you would have heard that Halliburton subsidiary Kellogg, Brown and Root won a 385 million dollar contract to construct a series of internment camps throughout the US.

While technically the purpose of the camps is a migrant holding facility (not that this isn't ominous), it has become clear, both through requests from FEMA and further statement by the contractors and government, that the facilities have been designed for use on US citizens should a problem arise in the future.

Now, this alone is bad enough. However, since George W. Bush's motto seems to be it could always be worse, he was loath to stop there. National Security Presidential Directive 51, enacted May 9th, 2007, effectively allows the executive branch to assume total control of the government in the event of any large disaster.

While this may not appear related to the internment camps, the two are closely linked through the continuity of government plan. This plan has, under the loving direction of G.W. Bush, expanded to a point where a massive electronic database is maintaining records on millions of people living in the United States. This database, known as Main Core, is filled by the results of illegal electronic monitoring by the NSA. Everything you do or have recently done, online or over the telephone, has a chance of being analyzed and stored in your ever-expanding dossier.

This database, now rumored to have exceeded 8 million, follows citizens who, often for the slightest and most trivial reason, are considered unfriendly, according a veteran US security official. In the event of a disaster, this database can be used to almost

instantly select and locate enemies of the state, who would then be subject to anything from heightened electronic surveillance, to physical surveillance (the traditional FBI tail), to arrest and detention without trial.

Thus, we see a sinister tapestry, woven from several only slightly threatening laws and declarations, which together present the carefully crafted plan for the US to become a fascist police state. The slightest disaster, given the proper political spin, would grant the President total control, strip millions of the most free-thinking, outspoken Americans of their rights and freedoms, and fill the coffers of Halliburton and its ilk, indirectly providing the ruling elite even better incentives and gifts from lobbyists.

This is why you must take action. Defend yourself now. Encrypt your hard drive. Use a proxy. Hide your online identity, lest you one day find yourself in the wrong column in some vast government database.

The author recommends TrueCrypt and Tor for encryption and hiding internet activity

If you have a question for the doctor, email ask-dr-dice@mit.edu.

The Daily Blunderbuss

Ben Peters

