



CSU Fresno  
Dept. of Criminology  
Newsletter XXXVII

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Thai Government scammed with phony bomb detection kits

The need to be informed “globally” to prevent being scammed has taken on new meaning with the recent scandal involving phony bomb detection kits in Thailand.

All branches of the Thai military and Thai police had been using 700 “bomb” detection kits, purchased for \$20 million from a British firm, since about 2004, but recently began questioning the device’s ability to detect explosives. The problem has generated lots of news in Thailand, and the Bangkok Post has a separate section (GT200) with all articles on the bomb detection kits: <http://www.bangkokpost.com/>

Ironically, a similar device was blocked from export by the British government and the managing director of the firm was arrested for fraud. The unit involved was also sold in Iraq and Afghanistan. On line news reports

indicate the device is simply a plastic box with an antenna on it, and an inspection of the inside found nothing that would enable it to function as advertised.

TMCnet.com reports that thousands of units costing a total of about \$85 million were sold in Iraq for use at checkpoints and other locations. According to news reports, the manufacturer even claims that with the right “card” the unit could detect “elephants, humans, and \$100 bills.” The unit has NO battery. Read more and laugh or cry at:

<http://www.tmcnet.com/submit/2010/01/25/4587410.htm>

Read the companies FAQ on the GT-200 at: <http://www.e-k9.net/gt200faq.php>

A check for use of phony detection units in nearby Mexico resulted in several articles about the Mexican military using *equipos de detección molecular GT-200*. One article is entitled:

“El Ejército está preparado para las tareas de seguridad pública: general Ricardo Díaz Palacios” and is located at:

[http://www.cronica.com.mx/nota.php?id\\_nota=348292](http://www.cronica.com.mx/nota.php?id_nota=348292)

Reading about this scam triggered recollections of a similar scam involving the sale of the *Quadro Tracker* drug detection kit to

This newsletter is not an official publication of CSU Fresno or the Department of Criminology. Dr. H.O. Schweizer is the sole author and responsible for its content. You can email him at: [haralds@csufresno.edu](mailto:haralds@csufresno.edu)

**BOMB/DRUG DETECTION UNIT? NOT!...**

police and schools across Texas beginning in about 1995 and ending with an FBI investigation in 1996 , which concluded that the device was little more than a plastic box with an antenna on it. News articles stated that the device apparently cost about \$2 to manufacture and was sold for about \$8000, It is unknown if the owners of these two different companies involved in these scams (one in Britain and the other in Harleyville, South Carolina) are related to one another.

Read the British company’s FAQ on the GT-200 at:

<http://www.e-k9.net/gt200faq.php>

**CRIMINOLOGY DEPT. NEWS  
Public Presentation on the  
AFGHAN NATIONAL POLICE**

The Law Enforcement Option within Criminology is sponsoring a **public presentation** by Fin JOHNSON, the former U.S. State Department Aide to the Afghan National Police General in charge of Criminal Investigations. Mr. JOHNSON was interviewed by students in the downtown government employee criminology degree program in May 2009 via a live SKYPE connection between Afghanistan and Fresno, and has since rotated back to the U. S. at the end of his overseas assignment.

Mr. JOHNSON’s knowledge and understanding of the volatile situation in Afghanistan bring a sense of reality to any discussion on Afghanistan, and he is simply superb with his ability to describe complex issues in a language people can understand. Mr. JOHNSON is a true “boots on the ground” law enforcement professional with many

years in law enforcement, including service as a special agent with the FBI.



*Fin JOHNSON while still in his official capacity in Afghanistan*



*Fin JOHNSON on the ground in Afghanistan*  
Additional details, including a short bio and dates/times/place of the presentation will be published in the March 2010 Criminology Newsletter and via a special announcement.

**CRIMINOLOGY DEPARTMENT  
OFF CAMPUS DEGREE PROGRAM  
Reception with food and refreshments**

The third annual reception for all current and former “downtown program” students and faculty will tentatively be held this spring. The reception will be preceded by a presentation and information session regarding the program itself, an introduction of program and criminology department faculty, and information regarding the university admissions process, general education requirements, the completion of lower division courses at area junior colleges while in the downtown program, and the status of future graduate degree cohorts.

**CRIMINOLOGY FACULTY ACTIVITY**

Dr. H. Otto Schweizer presented at paper on the similarities and differences between *the Mohammed Abdullah (The Mad Mullah of Somalia), Umar Tall of Senegambia, and Mohammed Ahmed, the Madhi of the Sudan*, at the February Annual Meeting of the American Association of Behavioral and Social Sciences in Las Vegas (AABSS).

Dr. Kenneth J. Ryan presented a paper on *Interfacing Civilian and Defense Intelligence: Soliciting Cooperation Among Strangers* at the same conference.



**Las Vegas Metro Police Vehicle**

**DUI MOCK TRIAL  
EDUCATION PROGRAM  
Trial Date: 22 March 2010  
Time/Location: 1800 SSU**

Criminology Professor Mark STEVENS has created a DUI Mock Trial Education Program that is sponsored by the campus **Alcohol Safety Committee** and the **Department of Criminology**.



The purpose of the upcoming Mock Trial is to generate an increased awareness of the law regarding DUI and the law of implied consent. Awareness in the sense of what is going to happen to a student if they are cited for DUI in the state of CA.

Actors in the DUI Mock Trial will be played by regular Criminology students and it is also planned to have a real local judge from the Fresno area presiding over the trial. Lawyers and all other cast members will be played by CSU Fresno students. Local area lawyers and part time instructors have been assisting in training the cast.

The intended audience is Students, Faculty, and the greater Fresno Community.

## THERE IS ROOM FOR TWO MORE STUDENTS IN THE

**Study Abroad Program-Amsterdam May 27 – June 3, 2010**

**Program price: \$2,599**

**Dr. Masters** and **Dr. Muscat** of the Department of Criminology have organized and will be the instructors for a one unit program on Administration of Justice and Culture through the CSU Division of Continuing and Global Education. The Criminology Department has nine \$1500.00 scholarships available for undergraduate and graduate students wishing to take Crim 136T, Administration of Justice in Amsterdam.

Also, the CSU Fresno Office of Study Abroad and International Exchanges (International Programs) has additional scholarships available for students interested in this program. Students may apply for and receive BOTH the Criminology scholarships and the Office of Study Abroad and International Exchanges (International Programs) scholarships (approximately \$500). The total cost of this program is \$2599.00. The following is included in the fee:

- Roundtrip coach ticket airfare from Los Angeles, CA to Amsterdam via KLM round trip coach ticket
- Roundtrip transfers from Schiphol Airport to Amsterdam-Memphis Hotel
- Hotel accommodations at the Amsterdam Memphis Hotel for 6 nights (double occupancy)
- Portage for 1 bag, taxes and service charges, breakfast daily, half day city tour of Amsterdam
- English-speaking guide
- Tuition for 1 unit of credit (Crim. 136T) at CSUF

See the attachments at the links below for specific information on how to apply for the program and scholarship information. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Ruth Masters or Dr. Bernadette Muscat.

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Dr. Muscat: [bmuscat@csufresno.edu](mailto:bmuscat@csufresno.edu)

<http://zimmer.csufresno.edu/~haralds/A1.pdf>

<http://zimmer.csufresno.edu/~haralds/A2.doc>

<http://zimmer.csufresno.edu/~haralds/A3.pdf>



### IS THE DEGREE LEGITIMATE OR RECOGNIZED?

Have an applicant with a degree from an unfamiliar institution or one with a name that is close but not quite the name of an institution you do recognize? Check out the database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions and Programs published by the U.S. Department of Education.



<http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/Search.aspx>

You should note, however, that at least in California, religious institutions may confer degrees of divinity without restrictions. Some only require the payment of a small fee (\$100) and a little study and you receive a Doctor of Philosophy of Religion. Check it out at: (scroll down to the bottom)

<http://www.ulc.net/index.php?page=shop>

# Tech-Bits



# GOOG411

Searching for a business phone number anywhere in the United States? An earlier newsletter Tech-Bits section reported how callers can simply dial 1-800-GOOG411 for free directory assistance for businesses across the nation. After actually using GOOG411 numerous times it was interesting to discover that the service does not actually provide phone numbers for businesses but instead gives the caller multiple results for their inquiry, beginning with the most likely business matches.

The caller then selects the correct business and GOOGLE connects the caller to the business FOR FREE. It is important to speak clearly (and loud) for the computerized system to recognize your voice. A student in class tried out GOOG411 and indicated that the directory service is faster than the paid service reached by simply dialing 411. When you utilize 1-800-GOOG411, the service will connect you to the selected business wherever it is without long distance charges and you can talk as long as you want.

**"ONLY IN AMERICA"**

## EMPLOYMENT

### Police Officer (Ready-to-Hire list)



Posting #: 90104922

AMTRAK is seeking qualified candidates to be placed in a pool for consideration as future vacancies occur in Los Angeles, California.

#### Requirements:

United States citizen or permanent resident. 21 years of age, valid driver's license prior to appointment and an ability to obtain a police commission within the state in which assigned or in state of residence. There is also a rigorous physical agility test, a job related physical, a psychological exam and a background investigation.

Check the Amtrak website at:

[http://amtrak.teamwards.net/TR\\_Public/Web/index.jsp](http://amtrak.teamwards.net/TR_Public/Web/index.jsp)

### SURVEILLANCE INVESTIGATOR

**PHOTOFAX, INC.** needs qualified persons for the Los Angeles Area. College graduates in Criminology, Criminal Justice, or related field preferred. Position requires two weeks paid training in Chicago, ILL. Photofax is a leading nationwide surveillance and investigative firm in the area of insurance fraud. For more information contact Dr. H.O. Schweizer at [haralds@csufresno.edu](mailto:haralds@csufresno.edu) or John Todaro at Photofax ([jdodaro@photofax.net](mailto:jdodaro@photofax.net)) Tel. 517-263-6611