

Snowden One Of Many With Clearance

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. government monitors threats to national security with the help of nearly 500,000 people like Edward Snowden — employees of private firms who have access to the government’s most sensitive secrets.

When Snowden, an employee of one of those firms, Booz Allen Hamilton, revealed details of two National Security Agency surveillance programs, he spotlighted the risks of making so many employees of private contractors a key part of the U.S. intelligence apparatus.

James Clapper, the director of national intelligence, called Snowden’s leak “gut wrenching.”

The leak could lead the nation’s intelligence agencies to reconsider their reliance on outside contractors, said Joseph Augustyn, a former senior CIA official and principal at Booz Allen.

“I think it would call into question the role of the defense contractors,” Augustyn said.

Manning’s Court-Martial Under Fresh Spotlight

FORT MEADE, Md. (AP) — Army Pfc. Bradley Manning’s court-martial for giving hundreds of thousands of sensitive documents to WikiLeaks entered its second week Monday in a fresh spotlight cast by a brand-new leak by another low-level intelligence employee.

Like Manning, Edward Snowden could find himself hauled into court by the U.S. government after he unmasked himself Sunday as the leaker who exposed the nation’s secret phone and Internet surveillance programs to reporters.

Legal experts closely following both cases said they were shocked to find out young, low-ranking people had such access to powerful government secrets. Manning was 22 when he turned over the military and diplomatic cables about three years ago; Snowden is 29.

“In that respect, these cases suggest we should be much more careful about who is given security clearances,” said David J.R. Frakt, a former military prosecutor and defense lawyer who has taught at several law schools.

At the same time, legal experts saw differences between the two cases, namely that Manning’s secret-spilling was more scattershot, while Snowden appeared more selective.

Brazil’s Government Plans Car Crash Tests

SAO PAULO (AP) — After a decade of spiking fatalities from passenger car wrecks, the Brazilian government said Monday it plans to build its first auto crash test facility in an effort to improve the poor safety record of vehicles built and sold in the world’s fourth-largest automobile market.

The decision comes a month after The Associated Press published an investigation that showed many cars built by the world’s biggest automakers and sold in Brazil had significantly fewer safeguards than the same or similar models sold in the U.S. and Europe.

The AP found that Brazilians die at four times the rate as Americans in passenger car wrecks and that fatalities rose more than 70 percent in Brazil in the past decade while falling 40 percent in the U.S. Independent tests have been conducted in Germany on Brazil’s most popular car models, and the results are bleak. Four of Brazil’s five top selling cars failed their crash tests — the fifth has yet to be tested.

Dr. Dirceu Alves at Abramet, a Brazilian association of doctors who specialize in treating traffic accident victims, said he thinks a crash-test center will improve safety.

“There is no doubt about the importance of this lab. We cannot believe in the quality controls of the automakers alone,” he said. “We believe it will be one of the factors in reducing the number of traffic fatalities.”

Feds Tell NY Judge They’ll Comply With Order

NEW YORK (AP) — The federal government on Monday told a judge it will reverse course and take steps to comply with his order to allow girls of any age to buy emergency contraception without prescriptions.

The Department of Justice, in the latest development in a complex back-and-forth over access to the morning-after pill, notified U.S. District Judge Edward Korman it will submit a plan for compliance. If he approves it, the department will drop its appeal of his April ruling.

“Once the court confirms that the government’s understanding is correct, the government intends to file with the Circuit Court notice that it is voluntarily withdrawing its appeal in this matter,” the department said in a letter to the judge.

Last week, the appeals court dealt the government a setback by saying it would immediately permit unrestricted sales of the two-pill version of the emergency contraception until the appeal was decided. That order was met with praise from advocates for girls’ and women’s rights and with scorn from social conservatives and other opponents, who argue the drug’s availability takes away the rights of parents of girls who could get it without their permission.

Advocates for girls’ and women’s rights said Monday the federal government’s decision to comply with the judge’s ruling could be a move forward for “reproductive justice” if the U.S. Food and Drug Administration acts quickly and puts emergency contraception over the counter without restriction.

Apple Revamps Look Of iPhone, iPad Software

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Apple is throwing out most of the real-world graphical cues from its iPhone and iPad software, like the casino-green “felt” of its Game Center app, in what it calls the biggest update since the iPhone’s launch in 2007.

The new operating system, called iOS 7, strives for a clean, simple, translucent impression. Apple is redesigning all its applications and icons to conform to the new look, driven by long-time hardware design guru Jony Ive.

The operating system will show up on most iPhones, iPad and iPod Touches this fall, the company said.

The overhaul represents Ive’s attempt to freshen the look of both the iPhone and iPad in hopes of deepening users’ attachment to the trend-setting devices. It comes at a time when rivals such as Samsung Electronics and Google are trying to get people to defect by developing their own lines of elegant and often less expensive products.

The stiffer competition has slowed Apple’s growth in the increasingly important mobile device market, contributing to a 38 percent decline in the company’s stock price since the shares peaked at \$705.07 in September.

Santa Monica Shooter Had Troubled Past

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP) — The mother of a gunman who fatally shot five people during a chaotic spate of violence last week said the shooter’s father threatened to kill her on at least two occasions during their tumultuous marriage, according to court records obtained Monday by The Associated Press.

In a 1998 request for a restraining order, gunman John Zawahri’s mother, Randa Abdou, wrote that her husband once told her: “If I had a gun it would be over.”

Abdou also said her husband had threatened to take their two young sons to Canada after the couple separated at the time, and that he once punched her and stole her jewelry, purse, and divorce papers she had started filling out.

Authorities said John Zawahri, 23, shot his father, Samir Zawahri, and his brother, Christopher Zawahri, on Friday, leaving their home in flames before shooting at strangers in cars and on the Santa Monica College campus during a 15-minute rampage.

The former student at the school was heavily armed and carried a duffel bag with 1,300 rounds of ammunition before officers killed him in the campus library.

Abdou cut short a visit with family in Lebanon to return to Los Angeles on Sunday and had spoken with investigators who hoped she could provide clues to what sparked the violence.

Neighbor Beverly Meadows said

Abdou told her by phone Monday that she was in mourning and concerned about those who were hurt.

“She is very, very fragile right now, and at this point in time, everybody else is gone,” Meadows said.

Abdou has not spoken to the media.

“Please respect the fact that this woman is devastated,” Meadows said. “She is absolutely overwhelmed and she doesn’t know how to process it. She sounds like she’s

NSA Surveillance

Spying Programs Draw Fresh Ire

BY LARA JAKES
AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration faced fresh anger Monday at home and abroad over U.S. spy programs that track phone and Internet messages around the world in the hope of thwarting terrorist threats. But a senior intelligence official said there are no plans to end the secretive surveillance systems.

The programs causing the global uproar were revealed by Edward Snowden, a 29-year-old employee of government contractor Booz Allen Hamilton. Snowden, whose identity was revealed at his own request, has fled to Hong Kong in hopes of escaping criminal charges.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California, who heads the Senate Intelligence Committee and supports the surveillance, accused Snowden of committing an “act of treason” and said he should be prosecuted.

Coolly but firmly, officials in Germany and the European Union issued complaints over two National Security Agency programs that target suspicious foreign messages — potentially including phone numbers, e-mail, images, video and other online communications transmitted through U.S. providers. The chief British diplomat felt it necessary to try to assure Parliament

that the spy programs do not encroach on U.K. privacy laws.

And in Washington, some members of Congress said they would take a new look at scaling back the government’s authority to broadly sweep up personal communications when such surveillance risks privacy protections.

“There’s very little trust in the government, and that’s for good reason,” said Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., who sits on the House Intelligence Committee. “We’re our own worst enemy.”

Independent Sen. Angus King of Maine, who sits on the Senate Intelligence Committee, said he was considering how Congress could limit the amount of data spy agencies seize from telephone and Internet companies — including restricting the information to be released only on an as-needed basis.

“It’s a little unsettling to have this massive data in the government’s possession,” King said.

A senior U.S. intelligence official said there are no plans to scrap the programs that, despite the backlash, continue to receive widespread if cautious support within Congress. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive security issue.

The programs were revealed last week by

The Guardian and The Washington Post newspapers. National Intelligence Director James Clapper has taken the unusual step of declassifying some of the previously top secret details to help the administration mount a public defense of the surveillance as a necessary step to protect Americans.

One of the NSA programs gathers hundreds of millions of U.S. phone records to search for possible links to known terrorist targets abroad. The other allows the government to tap into nine U.S. Internet companies and gather all communications to detect suspicious behavior that begins overseas.

Snowden is a former CIA employee who later worked as a contractor for the NSA on behalf of Booz Allen, where he gained access to the surveillance. Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine said it was “absolutely shocking” that a 29-year-old with limited experience would have access to this material.

The first explosive document he revealed was a top secret court order issued by the U.S. Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court that granted a three-month renewal for a massive collection of American phone records. That order was signed April 25. The Guardian’s first story on the court order was published on June 5.

Obama Nominates Furman As Top Economic Advisor

BY JIM KUHNHENN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For someone with a reputation for seeking varying points of view before staking out a position or offering advice, Jason Furman was once, well, quite the risk taker.

President Barack Obama’s new nominee to a top White House economic advisory post years ago took the stereotype of “on the one hand, on the other hand” economic rumination to a different place.

He juggled. Knives, specifically. On the streets of New York as a teenager. Sometimes, a bowling ball, an egg and an apple.

These days, Furman, 42, is a senior economic adviser who has been involved in economic policy since the Clinton administration. He has advised President Barack Obama through the depths of the recession to the current modest recovery. He is a senior economist in a Democratic White House with friends and admirers among conservatives.



OLIVIER DOULIERY/ABACA PRESS/MCT
President Barack Obama announces Jason Furman (left) to join White House economic team as the chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers during a event in the State Dining Room of the White House Monday in Washington.

vited to attend the White House announcement Monday.

Furman’s college adviser and friend is conservative Harvard economist Greg Mankiw; his early mentor was liberal economist Nobel Prize winner Joseph Stiglitz. If confirmed, Furman would follow in their footsteps. Mankiw was chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers under President Bush; Stiglitz was chairman under President Clinton.

Obama, in perhaps a nod to that reputation, praised Furman as a valued and brilliant economic guide.

“When the stakes are highest, there’s no one I’d rather turn to for straightforward, unvarnished advice that helps me to do my job,” Obama said. “He under-

stands all sides of an argument, not just one side of it.”

Furman’s nomination is not likely to signal a sharp change in Obama’s fiscal and economic policies, though some liberals would prefer that Obama drop his attempt to win a “grand bargain” with congressional Republicans over fiscal policy. They believe Obama will give up more than he will get if he continues to push for spending cuts, tax increases and lower spending on entitlement programs.

“No economic adviser is going to get the House GOP to accept a more sensible budget approach or help us generate jobs,” said Lawrence Mishel, president of the liberal Economic Policy Institute. “Hopefully, they’ll abandon the grand bargain approach.”

Mandela Remains In Serious But stable Condition

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Nelson Mandela was in serious but stable condition in a Pretoria hospital for the third day Monday with a recurring lung infection, and a foundation led by retired archbishop Desmond Tutu described the 94-year-old anti-apartheid hero as an “extraordinary gift” to South Africa.

As family members visited South Africa’s first black president in the hospital, the government announced — in only the second communication on Mandela since he was hospitalized on Saturday — that his condition was “unchanged.”

A statement issued for the Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation described Mandela as “the beloved father of our nation” and offered prayers for a man seen by many around the world as a symbol of reconciliation because of his peacemaking role when white racist rule ended in South Africa.

Mandela “once again endures the ravages of time in hospital,” said the Cape Town-based foundation, which was founded by Tutu and his wife Leah to promote peace. “We offer our thanks to God for the extraordinary gift of Mr. Mandela, and wish his family strength.”

Tutu, 81, was also vigorous campaigner against apartheid, which ended when all-race elections were held in 1994 and Mandela president. Like Mandela, Tutu was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts on behalf of his compatriots. Mandela shared his prize with F.W. de Klerk, the last president of the apartheid era.



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