ASSOCIATED PRESS

Curt Anderson
AP Legal Affairs Writer

A federal appeals court on Tuesday upheld the convictions of five men accused of plotting to join forces with al-Qaida to destroy a landmark Chicago skyscraper and bomb FBI offices in several cities.

A three-judge panel of the Atlanta-based 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected numerous claims by ringleader Narseal Batiste and his followers, including questions about the sufficiency of the evidence, the FBI’s use of an informant posing as an al-Qaida operative and the dismissal of a juror by a federal judge during deliberations.

One of those found not guilty, Lyglenson Lemorin, was nonetheless deported to his native Haiti. The case was built on recordings of FBI conversations and videos that he said showed his participation in the plot.

The eventual goal, testimony showed, was to overthrow the U.S. government.

It took federal prosecutors three trials to obtain convictions; the first two ended in mistrials of the post-9/11 Justice Department strategy of disrupting terror plots in the earliest possible stages.

Prosecutor Jacqueline Arango Declined comment Tuesday.

FBI’s use of informant

The group never came close to staging an attack, although the FBI informant posing as a terrorist led them in a videotaped oath of allegiance to Osama bin Laden.

Our country is no safer, and indeed probably less so, as a result of the government’s actions in this case

Ana M. Jhones, Attorney

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“This is a vital interest to punish these people for their desire to inflict harm.”

The case was a prime example of the post-9/11 Justice Department strategy of disrupting terror plots in the earliest possible stages. The U.S. attorney’s office declined comment Tuesday. Ana M. Jhones, who represented Batiste, said in an email that she is disappointed in the outcome.

“We have been disappointed that the government did not consider the sincerity of the defendants in those cases,” she said.

The group, she added, had no connection to the plot.

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He believes that state money will be better spent in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics programs.

To Dennis Wiedman, an anthropology professor at the University, it doesn’t make sense to radically alter higher education. As Scott, who decided not to accept the federal stimulus money even though some argued the state needed it, now wants to threaten the freedom for students to choose what education they want.

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Gov. Scott’s statement creates resentment among the liberal arts

Chapter will be the first in Florida

PHI CHI, page 1

“We want to help members get research, volunteer opportunities, shadow physicians. We want to help members get their GPAs to the right level,” said Montezano. Aray Rivera, a student at the University who founded Stand Up for Love, believes that joining student organizations are important for students.

“You learn a lot from different people. You get a better perspective on life and the different views,” said Rivera. Montezano shares this belief that organizations are important for students to gain a perspective on society. Montezano plans to allow students to gain this perspective by having students participate in missions. Missions are basically a charitable act of goodwill to those less fortunate.

Although in its infancy Phi Chi has started to make plans for missions, but no concrete plan has been made until the fraternity has the amount of members it needs. Montezano believes that the fraternity will grow in numbers once the challenges of starting a medical society are overcome. “The challenges have been a lot of work. I have a new e-board being built, limited number of people helping, students are also a bit iffy about joining a new society because they may want to see what the society does first.” Phi Chi has been working on getting a sponsorship from local businesses. “Missions cost money, and we want to see if we can do some without charging our members,” said Montezano. Aside from missions, the society plans on giving its members free tutoring for the Medical College Admission Test, the medical equivalent of the SAT, and for their classes. Montezano wants to make sure that every member has the opportunity to achieve their dreams.

Montezano believes that starting a chapter of Phi Chi at the University will add to the students’ selection of pre-med clubs at the University. Montezano, at the start of the other societies that were pre-medical and it started looking like a ‘clave,’” Montezano said. “They were more social than [working on] getting things done.”

If students were not able to attend Phi Chi’s meeting they should contact Montezano at neurol_sciences@fiusm.com.
Sig Ep earns championship

KEVIN CASTANEDA
AND
D'J OUMB ARETY MOREAU
Staff Writers

On a Halloween championship showdown, on Oct. 31, Sigma Phi Epsilon beat Tau Kappa Epsilon 12-6, with two second half touchdowns.

Sigma Phi Epsilon opened up the game with a new formation that bewildered the defense. The formation had two running backs instead of two offensive linemen. This gave quarterback Jared Rok the opportunity to either pass the ball or run it. They in turn did not have enough room to spread the defense out like before. Therefore, they turned the ball over on downs.

After exchanging possessions a few times, Sigma Phi Epsilon had to punt. The punt only went 15 yards, leaving Tau Kappa Epsilon in great field position.

Only 25 yards away, Tau Kappa Epsilon quarterback Junior Villegas tossed a perfect spiral to the end zone. The receiver elevated himself, caught the pass, and was out of the pocket.

Tau Kappa Epsilon finally got pressure on Rok and was able to get an interception to end the half.

To open the second half, Villegas threw an interception that proved costly. Rok wasted no time with the possession provided by the goal line though, because they did not have enough room to spread the defense out like before. Therefore, they turned the ball over on downs.

Sig Ep's running backs were able to get an interception to keep them in the race for the Sun Belt title.

The final stretch of the regular season for FIU starts Saturday, Nov. 5 at 4 p.m. in Western Kentucky as the Hilltoppers, one of the hottest teams in the Sun Belt, one of the hottest teams in the Sun Belt with four straight wins and an overtime victory against ULM last week to keep them in the race for the Sun Belt title.

WKU brings the number one running back in the Sun Belt, senior Bobby Rainey, who has rushes for 1014 yards and nine touchdowns through eight games. The offense is based heavily on Rainey and the rushing attack and has gone to the ground 133 more times than through the air.

“The one thing I notice about Bobby Rainey is that as the game goes on, he gets stronger,” said head coach Mario Cristobal. “There’s a reason he’s up for the player of the year in the conference, it’s because of what he does and the fact that he does it against good opponents, during tough times and late in the game.”

However, the Panthers’ strength on defense has been stopping the run this year and is number three in the SBC by 3.5 yards per game.

Bjelica, Egan propel late season surge

EDUARDO ALMAGUER
Staff Writer

This is not the team you knew one month ago.

This is not the team that had its practice cancelled because of lack of effort. This is not the team that lost four of five games in early October to Sun Belt Conference leaders Middle Tennessee and Western Kentucky.

This is now the team that will be renamed by the end of the season.

Over the past two weeks, the Panthers (16-7, 8-4 SBC) may have discovered the perfect lineup, which has led to five consecutive wins for the squad and has raised expectations for the remainder of the season. The streak is the longest in great field position.

The team is the long one they were seven in a row from Sept. 4 - Sept. 25.

What has been the key to their recent success? Redshirt freshman setter Jessica Egan.

With Egan now fully entrenched in the setter position, a spot she did not have to begin the season, she has begun to spread the ball among her teammates.

Over the past two weeks, senior Andrea Lakovic and middle hitter Jovana Bjelica have discovered the perfect lineup, which has led to five consecutive wins for the squad and has raised expectations for the remainder of the season. The streak is the longest in the Sun Belt with four straight wins and an overtime victory against ULM last week to keep them in the race for the Sun Belt title.

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Fast start propels Panthers past Red Wolves in first round

ANTHONY GUIVAS
Staff Writer

The after the end of a very successful season for our Golden Panthers, FIU headed to Murfreesboro, Tenn. to take on Arkansas State to start the SBC tournament.

The last time these two teams faced off was back on Sept. 25, which led to a thrilling Golden Panther victory as FIU beat the Red Wolves 2-1 in overtime.

In that victory, the Golden Panthers’ April Perry provided the crucial goal to give FIU the win. And on the Nov. 2 game, Perry was again crucial in helping the Golden Panthers move forward in the tournament, as FIU defeated the Red Wolves 2-0.

Both teams took to the pitch at exactly 11 a.m., and right from the get go the game seemed to go in favor of Arkansas State.

The Red Wolves offense attacked early on but fizzled soon after as the Golden Panthers were able to withstand their early onslaught.

The Golden Panthers were able to silence the Red Wolves offense in the 21st minute as Ashleigh Shion (who was just honored as the freshman of the year in the SBC) gave a beautiful assist to Kim Lopez, who drove it home to give FIU an early 1.0 lead.

If the Golden Panthers’ season has taught the team anything is that every scoring opportunity is crucial, and FIU made sure to execute on each one.

In minute 35 of regulation, the Golden Panthers struck again this time with senior April Perry. The goal was an absolute gem as Perry was awarded a free kick from 40 yards out and was able to drive it pass the defense and through the net.

“We did what we wanted to do, we came out early and did well throughout the game,” said coach Thomas Chestnut.

The two goals were more than enough for an FIU victory as the Golden Panther defense again crucial in helping the Red Wolves lose at just six shots in the second half.

With the victory, the Golden Panthers look to take on the winner between the Denver Pioneers and Alabama Jaguars on Nov. 3 at 5 p.m.

In that victory, the Golden Panthers’ April Perry [above middle] and Kim Lopez scored in FIU’s 2-0 tournament win.

FOOTBALL, page 3

allowing 3.5 yards per carry.

“We’ve made adjustments through our calls and through our plays,” said linebacher Winston Frazier on how the defense is preparing to stop Rainey. “Honestly it’s just executing what everyone wants to see him use his athleticism and make progress. After carrying the team back towards a victory against possibly the worst team in football last season, Tebow received praise as well as criticism.

Last week, Tebow was man handled by the Lions, being held to 172 yards and an interception. Cam Newton can not seem to catch a break, after putting up Brady-esque numbers this season as a rookie. Even with nearly 300 yards and three touchdowns, somehow his team is sitting at two and six because his defense is nonexistent.

The Bengals quietly have rallied through two big months, Carson Palmer and Chad Ochocinco, and they are better than ever. With a young and dynamic defense, the Bengals have a lot of promise.

Andy Dalton is an impressive rookie up to this point. Last week he was not a great one for Dalton but he did throw for nearly 175 yards and two touchdowns.

THE TRASH BIN

Michael Jenkins (Minnesota Vikings): Against Carolina, which is probably the worst defense in the NFL along with the Pats, Jenkins caught the ball for only 30 yards with two receptions. If he could not get going against Carolina, I doubt he will make any progress soon.

Baua.

Bernard Scott (Cincinnati Bengals): Cedric Benson is coming back from suspension this week, so I highly doubt Scott will get many touches. Trash him.

Ben Obomanu (Seattle Seahawks): He is an inconsistent player. Do not let his 100-yard game fool you. He can go from a four-catch game to a game with no catches easily. Trash him.

UNDER THE CRZER

Javen Ringer (Tennessee Titans): With Chris Johnson not playing up to potential, Ringer will earn his $500,000-dollar salary. They both are going to split carries for the rest of the season, but look for Ringer to maintain his positive yardage. Pick him up.

Tashard Choice (Washington Redskins): Shanahan switches quarterbacks and running backs back like he changes underwear. Up to this point, the only player Shanahan has faith in is Tashard Choice. Snag him.

Kevin Faulk (New England Patriots): Finally, Mr. Faulk is back from injury. Faulk was the Wes Welker of the Pats before Welker. He showed a sample of this on Sunday against the Steelers and barely missed the end zone as well. Faulk will probably be Brady’s second favorite option behind the upcoming feature.

CHASING CHAD

For some reason, Ochocinco did not play against Pittsburgh. Maybe the genius Belichick realized he was playing like garbage and did not deserve to step on the field. Who knows if Ocho will step back on the field for the Pats this season.

Panthers look to stay in contention for Sun Belt title

INTRAMURALs, page 3

his defense and threw a 40-yard touchdown pass on the first play. This tied the game at 6-6. Villegas threw another interception on his next drive.

The interception left Sigma Phi Epsilon only 15 yards out this time. Rick took three plays and another first play touchdown pass, giving his team a 12-6 lead.

The defeated and dejected Tau Kappa Epsilon team simply had no answers for Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Villegas even threw an interception on the last play of the game to give Sigma Phi Epsilon the win.

Dustin Elliot, Sigma Phi Epsilon’s assistant coach, gave some insight this on the night. When asked if the win felt great he replied, “Yeah, it does. When I played we never won a championship, so it feels nice to coach these guys to one.”

Alpha Xi Delta dominates Alpha Omicron Pi in final

As Halloween approached, quarterback Christina Brador was a nurse, and her Alpha Xi Delta team ran a clinic, defeating Alpha Omicron Pi 27-16 and ending the season in grandiose fashion.

With nearly two months of blowout victories, Alpha Xi Delta might have forgotten what defeat felt like, but they were not reminded in their championship game against Alpha Omicron Pi.

The defending champions played inspired football leaving their blood, sweat and tears on the field against their opponents who played very physical football.
The play selection committee is headed by Professor Michael Yawney, the department dramaturge, a consultant for play production. The committee includes faculty representing the different disciplines within the theater department like design, performance and literature. Students are also invited to join in order to represent the student body overall.

“We [have] the option to join the committee to decide which plays will be put on the following semester,” said Jesula Lubin, a senior theater major.

The nomination process is a group effort, so the titles reflect a varied taste by the students and faculty. Many genres and subjects are considered.

“The student representatives solicit play titles from the theater majors and faculty committee members [to solicit] the student body overall. "We [have] the option to join the committee [to] decide which plays will be put on the following semester," said Jesula Lubin, a senior theater major.

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Miami ARTletics network brings youth to FIU

Kappa member Zacchur Porter plays in the Frost Art Museum with his sponsor. Reggie Richardson of the BSU helped make clay gargoyles for Halloween.

Athletics and the Frost Art Museum teamed with the Black Student Union and fraternity Kappa Alpha Psi to sponsor 16 4th and 5th grade boys from the Overtown Youth Center for the day. Students showed the boys around the campus, tour the Frost, and took them to meet wide receiver T.Y. Hilton and men’s basketball coach Isiah Thomas. This was Miami ARTletics networks’ first year.
When you walk through campus, it is nearly impossible to escape the mixed aromas of Star-bucks frappucinos, Greek life cupcakes and delicate, flaky pastelitos from Bustillo.

In order to resist these easily accessible offerings, it is imperative that I leave home armed with a cooler and a bag filled with healthy snacks. Here are some low-calorie snack options for you to try the next time you feel the need to give in.

If you are in the mood for something crunchy, go for carrots or celery sticks with hummus. One cup of chopped carrots adds up to just 50 calories! Pair up this sweet, vitamin A-rich vegetable with two tablespoons of creamy fiber-filled hummus for a snack that is sure to nip the sodium-filled chips and dip craving away. Hummus goes great with just about anything, so experiment with celery sticks or whole wheat pita bread to keep you feeling full. Also, remember that you can have as many carrots and celery sticks as you like because they contain a very minimal amount of calories.

Peanut butter is a great source of protein and it is packed with omega-3 fatty acids - healthy fats that are essential in cognitive and behavioral function and aid in lowering heart disease and cancer. Combine two tablespoons of peanut butter with one medium apple for a snack that weights in close to 300 calories (which is about the same amount of calories as that Snickers bar you grab around 2 p.m.).

Fueling up for an exam? Spread four crackers with peanut butter and top each with another peanut butter cracker sandwiches. Keep in mind that this option is more calorie-density because of the combination of carbohydrates and protein in the crackers and peanut butter. Four peanut butter cracker sandwiches total about 350 calories. However, pretzels are known to have a high sodium count, so do yourself a favor and read the label so you know when enough is enough. For an extra kick of flavor, try Snyder’s of Hanover pumpernickel and onion braided twists. If you are in the mood for a sweet and salty flavor, go with Snyder’s of Hanover honey-metered peanuts. For a sweeter approach, add in chocolate and a sprinkle of salt!

Pretzels are a great source of protein and a staple in the snack arsenal of healthy snacks, you are sure to kick your cravings to the curb!

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Another snack that is filled with protein has also been proven to boost your mood, which may be practical in fighting the stress that comes with being a college student.

Turkey contains serotonin-promoting tryptophan in every 48 gram serving (about 54 calories). In addition to boosting your mood, turkey also helps you regulate appetite and sleep cycles. Roll a few slices of calcium-rich cheese inside a few slices of turkey for an extra 100 calories.

Avoiding processed, calorie-dense foods around campus may seem difficult, but it is not impossible. With your new arsenal of healthy snacks, you are sure to kick your cravings to the curb!

Play titles from the rest of the faculty. The number of plays suggested is initially quite large, as many as sixty or more sometimes,” said Skow.

The committee then begins to weed out the impossible and inappropriate plays to bring the number of prospective plays to about 25.

“Each member of the committee is then assigned three to five of these plays to read and give an assessment on the quality of the script, the breakdown of the cast and the production challenges. The number of plays is again narrowed down based on these assessments,” said Skow.

“The committee has numerous points to consider when choosing a play. This includes the type of each cast play required in relation to the number and skill levels of the students, availability of the performance rights of a given script and educational mission for students. An important factor is to consider when choosing a play to produce is the commercial aspect. Plays that can be easily marketed, because the show is better known or discusses a subject that University students will relate to, have a better chance of being chosen.

“We do take into consideration how we are going to sell [during the season],” said Skow. It is difficult to balance the kinds of plays that will sell well and the kind of plays that students will learn from.

“We accept [each show as a challenge because every experience allows us to grow into becoming a great actor. I wouldn’t say I dislike [any of the shows],” I’d say I am disappointed that the list is limited to the same kind of plays that are assumed to sell,” said Lubin.

The process of selecting shows for each season takes about four months and sometimes plays are held for upcoming seasons.

“Really, we are working two years in advance, although the second year season is subject to change. There is already a preliminary season in place for 2012-2013, but it is being looked at right now to see if we want to change any of the plays or rearrange the order or plays. Then, the focus will shift to the 2013-2014 season and a preliminary season will be selected,” said Skow.

Directors are also considered based on their style and experience.

“I will talk with the director who has the strongest feelings about which play and who would be the best match for which play,” said Skow.

The same thing is true for the designers, I run the advice of the head of performance in choosing the directors and on the head of design and production in choosing the designers.”

The process takes a lot of consideration, but the end result is worth the stress.

Consciousness is key when eating snacks on campus

Wen and liberty and national security: an ongoing, the Catalina Hotel & Beach Club?

Fueling up for an exam? Spread four crackers with peanut butter and top each with another peanut butter cracker sandwiches. Keep in mind that this option is more calorie-density because of the combination of carbohydrates and protein in the crackers and peanut butter. Four peanut butter cracker sandwiches total about 350 calories. However, pretzels are known to have a high sodium count, so do yourself a favor and read the label so you know when enough is enough. For an extra kick of flavor, try Snyder’s of Hanover pumpernickel and onion braided twists. If you are in the mood for a sweet and salty flavor, go with Snyder’s of Hanover honey-metered peanuts. For a sweeter approach, add in chocolate and a sprinkle of salt!

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Avoiding processed, calorie-dense foods around campus may seem difficult, but it is not impossible. With your new arsenal of healthy snacks, you are sure to kick your cravings to the curb!
T he focus of the Oct. 31 meeting was a brief and encouraging presentation outlining the early foundations of a plan to create political parties at the Student Government Council at the Modesto Maid-ique Campus. Delivered by full-time SGC-MMC Advisor Jose Toscano, Assistant Director of Student Life Michelle Castro and Graduate Assistant for Student Government Carlton Ng, the presentation displayed an outline for how the political parties would function.

As Toscano was quick to say, the idea is far from fleshed out. Plenty of research and planning await the actual creation and subsequent autonomy of these parties and the system to which they will belong. Early as it is, the prospects sound promising so far.

One of the distinctive features, which may or may not surprise anybody, will be the exclusion of Democratic and Republican parties.

As Speaker of the Senate Donovan Dawson explained, the parties in national politics are inter-ested in carrying the national agenda on different goals, whereas with University politics, “The overarching goal is the same: how can we make FIU a better university?” Thus, the campus parties.

Enlivening progressively as it appears, though, the thought is certainly tainted by the so-undertaking that this will probably only complicate things, will become one more source of frustration and bureaucratic heckling.

We have lost our way as a collective movement for justice. It puzzles me why As civil rights advocates, we should reject the framing of the DADT repeal as a wholesale pro-civil rights issue.

As civil rights advocates, we should reject the framing of the DADT repeal as a wholesale pro-civil rights issue. Nothing will change nothing about that.

What I find even more surprising is that Choi could make such a pro-war comment just feet away from respected liberal jour-na-lists Amy Goodman without rebuke or further questioning by her.

Last year, MSNBC political com-men-tator Rachel Maddow used her pulpit to denounce Rep. Peter King for blocking the repeal of DADT with filibusters. “The right wants a culture war against gay people... that’s a war that anti-gay politi-cians lose and pro-civil rights politicians win,” says Maddow.

I wonder how anyone like Lt. Choi can say that with a straight face — no pun intended.

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testing for a new program aimed at getting certain travelers through airport security with less hassle has gone so well that the Obama administration’s attempts at a more risk-based, intelligence-driven passenger screening program aimed at responding to complaints that the government is not using common sense when it screens all travelers the same way at airports.

Details of which airports and airlines would be eligible for the next round of testing for the pre-screening program are still being hammered out, as is the exact implementation strategy.

Pistole said. Currently about 280,000 frequent fliers from American and Delta airlines — the two airlines eligible for the first round of testing — are participating in the program, according to TSA. The program is being tested at airports in Atlanta, Dallas, Detroit and Miami.

“This new screening system holds great potential to strengthen security while significantly enhancing the travel experience, whenever possible, for passengers,” Pistole said in a prepared statement at a hearing before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

The expanded testing will not affect most travelers expected to crowd the airports during this year’s busy Thanksgiving travel season. But the government has made other changes in the past year that could make for a less intrusive trip through airport security.

Invasive pat-downs and full-body imaging machines are still a central part of the air traveler’s experience in the U.S. But now children 12 and under are less likely to be patted down or forced to take off their shoes. And about half of the full-body imaging machines have been upgraded to show an outline of a person instead of a blurry naked image, a feature of all new machines the government purchases. Transportation Security Administrator John Pistole told Congress.

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...holds great potential to strengthen security while significantly enhancing experience.

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Friday, November 4, 2011

The Beacon – 8

SOUNDS OF THE BAY

On Nov. 2, the Wolfe University Center saw a variety of students such as [left] Jethro Decimus, junior journalism major, and [above] Denys Ivasechko, freshman chemistry major, and Lionel Duvalaisant, a freshman economics major, serenade crowds and jam on to pass the time on a quiet Wednesday.

JONATHAN SZYDLO
BBC Managing Editor

The Oct. 31 weekly Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus senate meeting saw a flurry of new business being brought up for voting before the senate and the passage of four motions by the BBC legislators, and the institution of a new set of SGC-BBC statutes.

SGC-BBC statute unanimously voted in favor of dissolving the current statutes that govern the council, to be replaced with an updated, and modernized, set of statutes to be signed by SGC-BBC President Denise Halpin.

The senate voted on the freezing of Panther Power’s funds due to their being delinquent on submitting their events reports, which were requested by the Operations Review Committee on Oct. 3 from all BBC Activity and Service fee funded organizations, and were due by Oct. 7 at 5 p.m.

The motion was carried by a vote of eight in favor, two opposed, and one abstention. Representatives from Panther Power have been summoned to appear at the Nov. 7, SGC-BBC senate meeting to give reason for their delinquency.

On Oct. 25, a motion was introduced by Odimayo Odumayo, SGC-BBC finance chair, to allow for the addition of electrical outlets to the swinging tables, located behind the Wolfe University Center, outside of Bistro on the Bay.

The motion was passed by a vote of 10-0, and will be brought before Halpin, to be signed once again, brought before the UWC on Nov. 4. The council read through the ACBA policy but tabled it to be voted upon at the Nov. 7 SGC-BBC senate meeting.

But the government has made other measures put in place at U.S. airports since the 2001 terror attacks continue to strengthen security while significantly enhancing the experience, whenever possible, for passengers,” Pistole said in a prepared statement at a hearing before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

Some enhanced security measures put in place at U.S. airports since the 2001 terror attacks continue to be controversial.

Others are concerned that radiation from the machines is dangerous. Though TSA has said the machines are safe, Pistole told lawmakers he would call for an independent study to evaluate their safety.

PSA will expand test for faster airport security

EILEEN SULLIVAN
Associated Press

Testing for a new program aimed at getting certain travelers through airport security with less hassle has gone so well that the Obama administration plans to expand it to another round of airports and travelers, the government said Wednesday.

The expanded testing will not affect most travelers expected to crowd the airports during this year’s busy Thanksgiving travel season. But the government has made other changes in the past year that could make for a less intrusive trip through airport security.

Invasive pat-downs and full-body imaging machines are still a central part of the air traveler’s experience in the U.S. But now children 12 and under are less likely to be patted down or forced to take off their shoes. And about half of the full-body imaging machines have been upgraded to show an outline of a person instead of a blurry naked image, a feature of all new machines the government purchases. Transportation Security Administrator John Pistole told Congress.

The pre-screening test program and policy changes represent the Obama administration’s attempts at a more risk-based, intelligence-driven passenger screening program aimed at responding to complaints that the government is not using common sense when it screens all travelers the same way at airports.

Details of which airports and airlines would be eligible for the next round of testing for the pre-screening program are still being hammered out, as is the exact implementation strategy.

Pistole said. Currently about 280,000 frequent fliers from American and Delta airlines — the two airlines eligible for the first round of testing — are participating in the program, according to TSA. The program is being tested at airports in Atlanta, Dallas, Detroit and Miami.

“This new screening system holds great potential to strengthen security while significantly enhancing the travel experience, whenever possible, for passengers,” Pistole said in a prepared statement at a hearing before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

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