

# A Wide Surveillance Net

A firestorm follows a report that as part of the terror fight, three firms turned over the phone-call records of millions of Americans.

**Uproar:** Issues of privacy, national security weighed.

By Ron Hutcheson and James Kuhnenn  
INQUIRER WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — Revelations that the government collected the phone-call records of millions of Americans drew calls yesterday for a congressional investigation and fueled questions about President Bush's choice for CIA director.

At least three companies — AT&T Corp., Verizon Communications Inc., and BellSouth Corp. — turned over call records for tens of millions of their customers to the National Security Agency as part of the administration's antiterrorism effort, USA Today reported.

**More Coverage**

- The President says NSA actions protect nation. **A20.**
- Specter seems to relish a new chance for hearings. **A21.**

disturbing questions about the government's reach into personal lives.

"Are you telling me that tens of millions of Americans are involved with al-Qaeda?" Sen. Patrick J. Leahy (D., Vt.) asked. "If that's the case, we've really failed in any kind of a war on terror."

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Arlen Specter (R., Pa.) said he would summon phone company executives to a hearing to examine how much customer information they supplied to the government, "to try to find out what's going on and whether it's constitutional."

At a hastily arranged appearance before reporters, Bush insisted that everything the government was doing was legal.

"Our intelligence activities strictly target al-Qaeda," he said. See **NSA** on A20

Denver-based Qwest Communications International refused to cooperate because it questioned the legality of the government program.

Critics said the massive collection of phone records violated Americans' privacy and raised



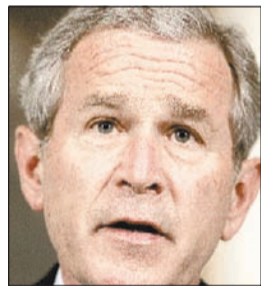
**Data Mining: How It Works**

Each colored square on this diagram represents one of the 9/11 hijackers. With social-networking analysis software, a researcher used publicly available data to show the connections among each hijacker and his associates (in gray). Heavier lines indicate stronger connections.

**The hijackers**

- Pilots have a thick outline:
- American Airlines Flight 77
  - American Airlines Flight 11
  - United Airlines Flight 93
  - United Airlines Flight 11

SOURCE: Diagram © Valdis Krebs, <http://orgnet.com/hijackers.html>. For more information on how the diagram was created, go to <http://go.philly.com/hijackers>



"The government does not listen to domestic phone calls without court approval. ... We're not mining or trolling through the personal lives of millions of innocent Americans." **President Bush**



"Are you telling me that tens of millions of Americans are involved with al-Qaeda? If that's the case, we've really failed in any kind of a war on terror." **Sen. Patrick J. Leahy (D., Vt.)**

**Technology: Networking software can connect dots.**

By Brian Bergstein  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON — If the National Security Agency is indeed amassing a colossal database of Americans' phone records, one way to use all that information is in "social-networking analysis," a data-mining method that aims to expose previously invisible connections among people.

Social-network analysis has gained prominence in business and intelligence circles under the belief that it can yield extraordinary insights, such as the fact that people in disparate organizations have common acquaintances. Companies can buy social-networking software to help determine who has the best connections for a particular sales pitch.

So it did not surprise many security analysts to learn yesterday from USA Today that the NSA was applying the technology to billions of phone records.

"Who you're talking to often matters much more than who you're talking to." See **DATA** on A20

Officer Gary Skerski will be laid to rest.

## Phalanx of police to attend funeral

By Julie Stoiber  
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

There are few occasions more somber, more dreaded, than the one that will draw hundreds of men and women in uniform to the city today.

They will come from around the country to say goodbye to a fellow police officer who was cut down in the line of duty Monday night. Gary Skerski, a 46-year-old father of two and a popular community-relations officer, will be laid to rest with all the ceremony the Philadelphia Police Department can muster.

Cardinal Justin Rigali will conduct his funeral Mass at the ornate Port Richmond church where Skerski's family worships.

Portions of Interstate 95 will be closed this afternoon as an honor guard of police motorcycles escorts the officer to his final resting place at Resurrection Cemetery in Bensalem.

Skerski was working overtime when he was shot to death by a gunman bursting out of a Frankford bar that had just been robbed.

Those who admired the 16-year-old officer will be invited to a funeral. See **FUNERAL** on A8



**Officer Gary Skerski** was slain Monday night investigating a bar robbery. A task force has been created to search for his killer. **B1.**

## Push is on to enroll in drug plan

Confused? Help is available. Deadline is Monday night.

By Marc Schogol and Walter F. Naedele  
INQUIRER STAFF WRITERS

"Yell from the highest rooftop! Tell everybody!"

So urges Bill Cosby in a radio spot that's part of a major nationwide campaign to get Medicare recipients to enroll in the new prescription drug plan by the fast-approaching midnight Monday deadline.

As of Wednesday, the Bush administration said, about 37 million Medicare recipients were enrolled for Medicare Part D, but six million others hadn't yet done so.

**ONLINE EXTRA**

For answers on the Medicare prescription plan, go to <http://go.philly.com/medplan>

Many of those people could benefit, especially if they have no other coverage, experts said.

And only about 24 percent of those eligible for special low-income subsidies had enrolled as of April 18, says a report by Families USA, a liberal health-policy group that advocates more affordable medical care.

The rate is especially low in Pennsylvania, where only 17 percent (68,808) of 397,000 Medicare recipients had enrolled. See **MEDICARE** on A8

## Palestinian infighting turning more violent

At one hospital, patients from rival groups can't be taken at the same time.

By Michael Matza  
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

BEIT LAHIA, Gaza Strip — Running gun battles and targeted attacks across the Gaza Strip wounded five Palestinians yesterday, capping the worst week of inter-factional fighting since Hamas assumed power in March.

Three people have been shot to death and at least nine injured in the dangerously escalating rivalry between Hamas and Fatah gunmen that began last weekend. The violence is undermining efforts to bring order to the Gaza Strip, where masked, heavily armed gunmen from competing militias challenge police — and their rivals — for supremacy on the streets. It also hampers efforts at reconciliation between Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh.

Abbas is a longtime Fatah leader; Haniyeh headed the Hamas list of legislative candidates that swept to power in January elections. The violence is undermining efforts to bring order to the Gaza Strip, where masked, heavily armed gunmen from competing militias challenge police — and their rivals — for supremacy on the streets. It also hampers efforts at reconciliation between Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh.

See **MIDEAST** on A8

- Is Hamas willing to ease its hard line on Israel? **A8.**
- In Egypt, security forces beat unarmed demonstrators. **A2.**

## Getting in sync for the Dad Vail



BARBARA L. JOHNSTON / Inquirer Staff Photographer  
**The St. Joseph's University varsity eight** hones its skills on the Schuylkill in preparation for the 68th Dad Vail Regatta, which begins today. The university's crews will face a field of strong challengers in attempting to retain their overall championship. **Sports, D1.**

### INSIDE TODAY'S INQUIRER

**WEATHER**  
High 74, Low 54  
Rain moves out early. Afternoon showers possible this weekend. Full report and NBC10 EarthWatch forecast, **B7.**

**SPORTS**  
**Boxer Floyd Patterson dies**  
"Soft walk, soft talk — hard punch." That's how Joe Frazier remembered the champion. **D6.**

**NATION**  
**Senate approves tax cuts**  
Bill extending investors' lower rates awaits Bush's signature. **A3.**

**BUSINESS**  
**Tasty Baking's big decision**  
Tastycakes maker is exploring ways to freshen its manufacturing. **C1.**

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