

Soft Targets: Unintended Consequences, Privacy & Civil Liberties Concerns



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Summary

Problem: “Soft target protection” risks providing a justification for extending the kind of security apparatus we have in airports outward into American life, invading privacy, creating chilling effects and changing the nature of American life.

Solution: Well-rounded cost/benefit analysis, transparency, and democratic decision-making.

Risks to Civil Liberties

- Privacy
 - Collection of information
 - Data for ID-based security (risk assessments, watchlists, etc)
 - Monitoring of location, associations, etc
 - Abuse (individual, institutional)
- Discriminatory treatment
- Creating a garrison state, checkpoint community
 - Loss of freedom
 - Martinet guards
- Chilling effects

“Movie plot” hypotheticals and anecdotal success-stories make for bad decision-making

- Does the technology work?
- How effective is the technology?
- How likely is the targeted danger to happen?
- How bad are the consequences if it happens?
- What are the negative side-effects of the tech?
- What are the opportunity costs of the technology?
- Does the community want it?

Recommendations

- A rich cost-benefit analysis
- Democratic decisionmaking
- Transparency

Thank you!



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