

# Postal Worker West

ISSUED BY  
**OMAR M. GONZALEZ**  
**REGIONAL COORDINATOR**

SPECIAL EDITION NOV 2014

## Postal Cyber Attack Questioned



The issuance of two videos by the PMG (one for management and one for employees) and the rush to get out their Alerts and FAQs is not satisfying many concerned with the magnitude of the cyber breach reported by USPS.

In a hastily arranged Western Area telecom the employee unions and management associations were “briefed” on the “cyber intrusion” by HR managers. When Regional Coordinator Omar Gonzalez inquired as to when the attack occurred management stated they did not have that information and were not told themselves.

However, in a letter issued by Congressman Cummings of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform USPS briefed them on Oct. 22nd and Nov. 7th indicating the breach had occurred in October [ or earlier than that since the classified briefing does not reveal specific info but Congressman Issa reportedly has stated so ].

While various cyber-attacks have made news lately ( K-Mart, Home Depot) one not reported on widely was the attack on USIS a federal background checking company. News reports seem to implicate China for the security breach of USPS cyber space systems. But there is no clear evidence to support the report at this time.

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## Post Mid Term Elections and the USPS

The so called “Republican wave” of the mid term elections was predicted as early as February of this year.

Now the pundits are spinning the results in so many ways it is small wonder why so many Americans, including postal workers, chose to ride out the election and not even vote. Elections however, have consequences and for postal

workers dire consequences.

While almost every postal worker is aware of Congressman Issa’s disdain for postal workers most are not aware that with the change in the US Senate the Chairmanship of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs will go to a supposed Tea Partier. According to a Washington Post report, Senator Ron

Johnson, who favors privatization of the postal service, will chair the Committee that oversees the US Postal Service.

When asked about the report Regional Coordinator Omar Gonzalez said, “That he is a Tea Party favorite should not be our concern, what we need to worry about is Johnson’s expressed desires for USPS.”

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## 24 Hr Clock—Wall To Wall Work Floor Disruptions

USPS managers are scrambling to implement plans for their so called 24 hr clock wall to wall operations



which will lead to the massive realignment of tours, bids and schedules throughout the country including the Western Region.

During several presentations at Local and State seminars Regional Coordinator Omar Gonzalez has outlined the intent of the 24 hr. clock changes. “In order for the PMGs Service Standards changes to work, mail processing, maintenance and vehicle service operations must be realigned to the new critical entry times.”

In addition, because only 66% of the mail will have a guaranteed overnight delivery service management will be able to compress machine utilization, reduce machine “dirty up”, transportation trip changes and eliminate early DPS trips.

“All of this mess related to changing the Service Standards equals to the supposed savings from AMPs and the realignment of operations. Employees need to know what and why this is happening otherwise they blame their own union” said Gonzalez [continued on page 2 ]

## Cyber Attack continued



But the attack on the USPS has compromised thousands of employee records including their addresses ,social security numbers and birth dates ,as well as, related employment data.

Postal management informed that they could not reveal the breach sooner because it would have jeopardized their “remediation” efforts and because they know of no “malicious activity” or identity theft crimes. However, management will be mailing a letter allowing enrollment in Equifax Credit Monitoring with a 90 day window and free credit monitoring to postal workers for up to one year.

Congressman Cummings wants more info of what the attack was, when it was discovered and what actions were taken by USPS when the breach was discovered. Cummings also seeks info on the findings from the USPS forensic investigations and other vulnerabilities and questions why the breach went undetected for as long as it did.

Regional Coordinator Omar Gonzalez advises all members to take advantage of the Credit Monitoring and to take personal action to check accounts and to change passwords on postal inter and intranet programs. “It will take a while for any Congressional inquiry. And despite the involvement of the FBI , Inspectors and the OIG the information has already been compromised,” said Gonzalez. “Heck even the OIGs employment data was hacked,” he quipped. “This is serious stuff!”

## Post Mid-term Elections continued



Senator Johnson is reported to be on record as wanting to see the Postal Service go through bankruptcy and otherwise privatize the US Postal Service. “If you go to his official US Senate website you will see that he wants to audit federal agencies for reform or elimination, cut the workforce by 10%, have workers pay more for their benefits, eliminate retiree COLAs, change T-COLAs, eliminate MSPB for Veteran’s, eliminate TSA at major airports, cut FEMA assistances and end non-profit mail subsidies” said Gonzalez.

“Look what we, as postal workers, need to do is regroup. We need to reach out to our members , many of which are republicans, and seek their involvement in educating Congress on the continued viability of the US Postal Service. USPS made a \$1 billion operating profit last year and needs not go through any kind of bankruptcy proceeding!,” said Coordinator Gonzalez.

“We mustn’t make this a Republican/Democrat issue. This is a postal workers and community issue. The survival of the US Postal Service and providing quality 1st class service to the American people is our issue,” said Omar. The election showed the direction of the nation now we have to re-direct our efforts to educate Congress, America and our own members on our worth!

## 24 hr. clock continued

Every chance he gets the Coordinator alerts locals on being prepared. In last month’s *The American Postal Worker* magazine Gonzalez wrote an outline for locals and members. At various Town Hall Meetings and Seminars he has outlined what locals need to do to deal with the 24 hour clock process which will impact Clerks, Maintenance and Motor Vehicle crafts.

“Mail Processing Variance programs reduce operations and staffing and impacts all crafts all the way down to retail operations and even the so called last mile (delivery),” warns Gonzalez.

Locals must be vigilant on efforts by management to create so called “mirror bids” and expedited bidding with delayed placement. As he advised in the national union magazine every local must review their LMOUs. They can then decide if they will entertain any “negotiations” with management on their staffing proposals if they comport to the Minimizing Excessing MOU in the CBA.

## AMP Excessing Cancellations Not Real

The Regional Coordinator also warned Locals that issuance of so called AMP Cancellations by the Pacific and Western Areas are not really cancellations of management’s plans to consolidate Plants.

The Coordinator expressly warned not to confuse the words used by management “cancelled” “delayed” as meaning anything than District management has not been able to realign their operations quick enough before the January Area Move Date. They are in the process of doing so now!

“Short of a Congressional mandate to delay the January 5th Service Standard changes the impacts will likely go forward April or July 2015. Employees would have received “Excessing Notices” around November 13th. This reprieve is not permanent !”, warned Omar Gonzalez. “Despite reports of the OIG that the AMP studies are flawed and the Postal Regulatory Commission and even the Government Accountability Office that service will be degraded our management is hell bent on going forward with their plans,” said the concerned Regional Coordinator. Meanwhile there is no info on National HQs Step 4 appeals.

## The Western Region



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