

## Google attack part of vast campaign

Targets are of strategic importance to China, where scheme is thought to originate

BY ARIANA EUNJUNG CHA AND ELLEN NAKASHIMA

Computer attacks on Google that the search giant said originated in China were part of a concerted political and corporate espionage effort that exploited security flaws in e-mail attachments to sneak into the networks of major financial, defense and technology companies and research institutions in the United States, security experts said.

At least 34 companies — including Yahoo, Symantec, Adobe, Northrop Grumman and Dow Chemical — were attacked, according to congressional and industry sources. Google, which disclosed on Tuesday that hackers had penetrated the Gmail accounts of Chinese human rights advocates in the United States, Europe and China, threatened to shutter its operations in the country as a result.

Human rights groups as well as Washington-based think tanks that have helped shape the debate in Congress about China were also hit.

Security experts say the attacks showed a new level of sophistication, exploiting multiple flaws in different software programs and underscoring what senior administration officials have said over the past year is an increasingly serious cyber threat to the nation's critical industries.

"Usually it's a group using one type of malicious code per target," said Eli Jellenc, head of international cyber-intelligence for VeriSign's iDefense Labs, a Silicon Valley company helping some firms

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● China risks angering millions if Google departs. A14

## On the Hill, bankers torn on crisis role

Commission presses for answers, accountability, but tone remains cordial

BY BRADY DENNIS

A year after the financial system nearly went over the brink, the congressional commission investigating the roots of the crisis confronted four of the world's most powerful bankers on Wednesday and challenged them to take more responsibility for their role in upending the global economy.

But under questioning from the chairman of the bipartisan commission, Philip Angelides, the bankers quickly made clear that they view this dark episode through a very different lens, describing themselves in large part as victims of circumstance. The bankers, representing four of the country's largest financial firms, acknowledged that their companies took excessive risks in the years leading up to the crisis but said they could not have anticipated the events that precipitated the meltdown.

When Lloyd C. Blankfein, chief executive of the storied Wall Street firm Goldman Sachs, likened the financial crisis to the fluke of four hurricanes hitting the East Coast in a single year, Angelides shot back that the crisis was not caused by "acts of God."

"These were acts of men and women," Angelides said. "These were controllable."

As the commission sought to extract an explanation for the turmoil, the White House was preparing to propose a tax on financial firms to recoup some of the cost for rescuing them. The new levy on bor-

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# Catastrophe in Haiti

TENS OF THOUSANDS FEARED DEAD AFTER QUAKE; AID BEGINS ARRIVING



JORGE CRUZ/ASSOCIATED PRESS

A quake survivor in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, is covered in blood and white dust from collapsed buildings. See more quake images at [washingtonpost.com/haiti](http://washingtonpost.com/haiti).

## HAITIANS IN WASHINGTON

### For immigrants, an agonizing wait

BY WILLIAM WAN AND CAROL MORELLO

For years, Elsie Delson has worried about the 10-year-old son she left behind in Haiti — the son she couldn't afford to bring along as her family fled to the United States. Now, that decision weighs heavily on her soul.

In the wake of Tuesday's devastating earthquake in Haiti, Delson has frantically tried to call her parents, who care for her son in Port-au-Prince. Like many of the estimated 20,000 Haitian immigrants in the Washington area, she stayed up the night after the earthquake crying, praying and crying some more.

"I ask God what has happened, but I do not know. Nobody knows what hap-

pened, who is alive and who is not," she whispered in French at a prayer meeting Wednesday in Silver Spring. As she spoke, women around her cried out with loud Creole hymns and fervent prayers: "Protect them, God! O God who saves us. Protect them all!"

Across the Washington region and the country, from small enclaves of Haitians in Alexandria and Adelphi to huge communities in Miami and New York, similar stories of distress and uncertainty played out in churches, living rooms and offices.

Two priests — the Rev. Arsene Jasmin, who heads Haitian outreach for the Catholic Archdiocese of Washington, and one of his predecessors, the Rev. Andre Pierre, who lives in Haiti — had not been

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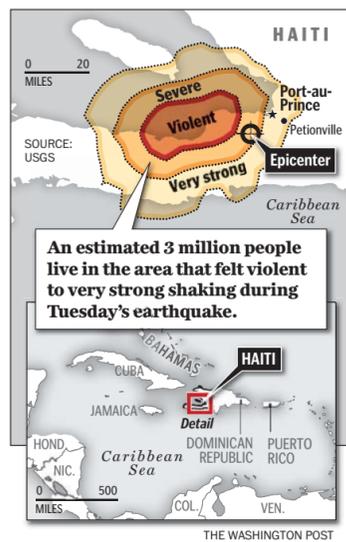
## THE U.S. RESPONSE

### Obama rapidly mobilizes rescue and relief efforts

BY MICHAEL D. SHEAR

President Obama mobilized the U.S. government Wednesday for a massive rescue and relief operation in the devastated capital of Haiti, ordering swift military and diplomatic assistance and pledging an aggressive effort to save the lives of those caught in Tuesday's earthquake.

Naval ships steamed south and flights began shuttling search-and-rescue teams to dig through rubble in Port-au-Prince. Military aircraft flew over the island, mapping the destruction, while U.S. officials coordinated the efforts of nongovernmental aid agencies. Coast Guard helicopters began flying seriously wounded Americans from the U.S. Embassy on the island nation to the U.S. military base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, about 200 miles away.



## IN PORT-AU-PRINCE

### Cries for help in ruined capital

BY MARY BETH SHERIDAN, WILLIAM BRANIGAN AND SCOTT WILSON

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI — Haitian leaders estimated Wednesday that tens of thousands of people have died in the aftermath of the earthquake that throttled this impoverished Caribbean nation, as the United States and other countries mobilized a vast rescue and relief effort to assist the legion of desperate survivors.

Untold numbers of people remained trapped under rubble a day after the 7.0-magnitude quake struck the capital, Port-au-Prince, a coastal sprawl of makeshift shacks, cinder-block buildings and historic gingerbread homes that witnesses described as a scene of unfolding chaos.

Caked in the flour-white dust of crushed plaster and cement, Haitians dug out family members by hand and piled bodies on street corners, as clusters of bloodied and dazed survivors pleaded for help. The government, depleted by death and injury itself, appeared unable to mount a significant rescue effort in the hemisphere's poorest nation.

President Obama dispatched military relief vessels and warships to stand off the Haitian coast, pledging "the deep condolences and unwavering support of the American people." Capitals from Brasilia to Beijing quickly put together aid packages and organized search missions in Haiti, where thousands of foreign residents remained unaccounted for. Within

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on [washingtonpost.com](http://washingtonpost.com)

Looking for ways to help? See A12. For a detailed list of organizations taking donations, go to [washingtonpost.com/haiti](http://washingtonpost.com/haiti).

Bill Clinton: The immediate and long-term help that Haiti needs. A19



JUAN BARRETO/GETTY IMAGES

The body of an earthquake victim lies on a bed amid the rubble of a hotel in Port-au-Prince. The United States is sending rescuers to help search for survivors.

"With just a few hundred miles of ocean between us and a long history that binds us together, Haitians are neighbors of the Americas and here at home," Obama said, calling the earthquake an "especially cruel and incomprehensible tragedy."

The U.S. government's response accelerated Wednesday as the extent of the disaster became clear. Obama canceled a

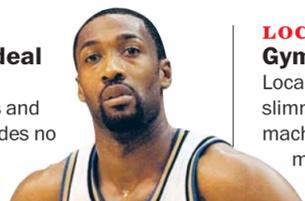
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## INSIDE

### SPORTS

#### Attorneys discuss Arenas plea deal

The Wizards star could be in court on gun charges as soon as Thursday. Prosecutors and his lawyers may work out a deal that includes no jail time. D1



### LOCAL LIVING

#### Gyms go on a diet

Local health clubs are slimming down, offering fewer machines for workouts, but more toys. Pullout

### STYLE

#### First lady takes on childhood obesity

In an interview informally marking the the beginning of her second year in the White House, Michelle Obama says she hopes to nurture a generation of healthier children. C1

### HEALTH CARE

#### Let the negotiations begin

President Obama brings together House and Senate leaders in a marathon session to resolve differences over health-care legislation. A5