
CABLE Gram
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CABLE Gram Volume 4 Issue 2

9 January 2007 CABLE Gram™

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Take care,

Zhi Hamby-Nye, Editor

Henry Ziegler, Associate Editor

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We search the topics and Websites that you request, so it is important for you to provide feedback. We are in our infancy and the CABLE Gram will be as useful as you help make it. Please let us know the topics and keywords that will assist you in your professional endeavors. Send all comments and suggestions to zhi@cablegram.org – please type CABLE Gram in the subject line.

FEDERAL

1. Homeland Security to Give Cities \$445M for Transit, Port Security (FOX News, 9 Jan 2007)

WASHINGTON - Nearly half a billion dollars will be given to U.S. cities and regions to help reduce the risk of terror attacks on ports, transit systems and chemical plants, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff announced Tuesday. Recipients will have to submit detailed plans on how they will use the funds to protect critical sites, Chertoff said. "We're simply not going to give the money out without any accountability," Chertoff said, adding that this was being done to make sure the money "goes for the kinds of things the public expects." He touched on previous grant programs that were so broad they allowed cities to use allocations to pay for just about anything, including leather jackets. Nearly half the grant money, \$201 million, would be used to secure ports and rail systems, including Amtrak. The Port of New York and New Jersey would get the biggest share, \$27.2 million.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,242642,00.html>

2. House Dems unveil sweeping post-9/11 security measure (By Chris Strohm, CongressDaily, 5 Jan 2007)

In one of their first legislative actions after taking control of the House, Democrats unveiled a massive bill Thursday that would overhaul how homeland security grants are distributed, require all sea and air cargo to be inspected, prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction and promote international diplomacy and aid. Making good on one of their major campaign promises, House Democrats released the contents of their bill to implement unfulfilled recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. Although Democrats said they would implement all unfulfilled recommendations, the bill comes up short in some areas, such as requiring a further streamlining of congressional oversight of the Homeland Security Department. But the 277-page bill contains 14 titles covering everything from grants to local fire departments to international relations with Pakistan.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=35806&dcn=e_gvet

3. Panel leaders sign pact to share oversight of FEMA, Coast Guard (By Chris Stroh, CongressDaily, 8 Jan 2007)

House Homeland Security Chairman Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., and House Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman James Oberstar, D-Minn., Thursday reached an agreement to share oversight over the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Coast Guard. The two new chairmen signed a memorandum of understanding to address the complicated relationship between their panels when it comes to oversight of the agencies, both of which reside in the Homeland Security Department. "This agreement marks a milestone in the relationship between our two committees," Oberstar said. "I commend [Thompson] for his willingness to work with us to find common ground on issues vitally important to both of our committees."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=35809&dcn=e_gvet

4. TSA set to issue smart-card IDs to port workers - The GAO had called on the agency to delay the rollout (Computerworld, 9 Jan 2007)

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is apparently moving ahead with plans to start issuing new smart-card identity credentials to more than 750,000 port workers starting March, despite earlier concerns by another government agency about its readiness to do so. Last week, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) published the final rule for the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) program put in place after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. The move is designed to boost security at an estimated 4,000 transportation facilities in the country. Under the program, all workers at the nation's transportation facilities will be required to undergo criminal background checks and carry DHS-issued smart-card credentials that include their photographs and a fingerprint template. The credentials will be required for unescorted access to secure areas of ports and vessels. The TSA is an agency in the DHS. The final rules published last week spell out the enrollment process for TWIC, as well as disqualifying crimes, usage procedures, fees and other requirements for workers, port owners and operators. Enrollment for the program will start in March "at a small number of ports" and be phased in throughout the remainder of the year at ports around the country, a DHS statement said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/ygkq7e>

5. Teamsters seek rail security focus (GovExec.com, 9 Jan 2007)

Officials from the International Brotherhood of Teamsters on Monday said they will push lawmakers to focus on rail security and will oppose immigration reform proposals that include a guest worker program. The Teamsters, a 1.4 million-member union representing freight drivers, warehouse workers and others in both the private and public sectors, expressed support for a sweeping homeland security bill introduced by House Democrats late last week, but said the new Congress should consider additional policy changes. Fred McLuckie, deputy director of legislative affairs for the union, urged more

training for rail workers and infrastructure improvements at rail yards. In addition, he said, the government and private sector should collaborate to provide more police to monitor rail yards.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=35821&dcn=e_gvet

6. Senators seek more aid for transportation security (By Chris Strohm, National Journal's Technology Daily, 8 Jan 2007)

A bipartisan group of senators is seeking more than \$1 billion to bolster security for passenger railroad and bus systems, the trucking and freight industry, tunnels, and pipelines. Newly minted Senate Commerce Committee Chairman Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, and ranking Republican Ted Stevens of Alaska are sponsoring a bill that will seek \$1.2 billion over three years for transportation security improvements. Several provisions were included in the Senate's version of a maritime security bill last year but were removed before Congress finalized it. "Our legislation represents a federal commitment to surface transportation security for our nation's railroads, trucks, buses and pipelines," Inouye said. "It identifies and addresses the numerous, lingering shortcomings that currently exist in these systems and provides the Transportation Security Administration with the necessary guidance needed to improve the protection of our essential transportation infrastructure."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=35816&dcn=e_gvet

7. Importers Concerned With Port Security Plan (Women's Wear Daily, 9 Jan 2007)

WASHINGTON - Apparel importers, regularly stressed about the timing of deliveries, are anxious about a House vote set for today on a bill that would require 100 percent screening of all cargo containers at foreign ports. Some executives said the measure - should it be approved by the House and the Senate - may force them to shift their sourcing strategies and add to their costs if major delays develop at ports. Others, however, were more sanguine, saying that they would evolve to meet the new requirements and that beefed-up security was necessary.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wwd.com/issue/article/111835?src=rss>

8. For truckers, new ID means background check – again (The Virginian-Pilot, 6 Jan 2007)

Truck drivers must pay for a federal background check to get the license they need to haul hazardous cargo. They must pay for a federal background check to move freight for the Department of Defense and another for the Department of Energy. And if they want to take freight into Canada? That's one more they'll need. This week, truckers learned of yet another check, a pricey investigation they will need to undergo to drive their big rigs in and out of U.S. ports, including Hampton Roads. It's required to apply for a new federal ID called the Transportation Worker Identification Credential, which is intended to make the country's 360 ports more secure against terrorism by scrutinizing the backgrounds of port workers for crimes, immigration violations and terrorist activities.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://content.hamptonroads.com/story.cfm?story=117147&ran=228516>

9. As pilgrims return from the hajj, the TSA gives its workers a refresher on how to treat Muslims at US security checkpoints (Christian Science Monitor, 9 Jan 2007)

NEW YORK – Say you're a security screener at the airport. You notice a large group of people wearing white robes, speaking a strange language. The women have head scarves and the men long beards. They look nervous. One of them is holding a Koran. Another appears to be praying. What do you do? According to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), simply assume they're devout Muslims returning from the annual hajj in Mecca. During the next few weeks, as many as 20,000 American Muslims will be returning to the United States from their pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia. The TSA has ramped up cultural-awareness training for all 43,000 of its screeners. The goal: to remind screeners what to expect from devout Muslims and how to go about screening them so it's in concert with their religious beliefs.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/0109/p02s01-ussc.html>

10. Court challenge of ID requirement fails (USA Today, 8 Jan 2007)

WASHINGTON - The Supreme Court on Monday rebuffed a challenge to the federal government's policy of requiring airline passengers to show identification before they board flights, spurning arguments that the well-known but unpublished policy would lead to more secret laws. John Gilmore, a founder of Sun Microsystems and an advocate of libertarian causes, sued the government because it has long refused to disclose the text of the regulation that forces air travelers to present an ID. The question before the justices was whether travelers have sufficient notice of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) ID policy to satisfy constitutional due process of law, which typically requires a law to be published so people know how to comply with it.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2007-01-08-airport-id-challenge_x.htm

11. UK: US admits privacy breach on airline data (OUT-LAW News, 9 Jan 2007)

The US Government has admitted that it broke privacy laws in its domestic airline passenger data scheme. The Homeland Security Department has admitted that it gathered more information than it had said it would. The admission will be a boost to campaigners who want to derail a deal between the European Commission and the US on passenger data sharing on the grounds that the US does not protect personal information well enough. An investigation by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)'s own privacy office was conducted into some aspects of Secure Flight, the successor to the CAPPS II passenger screening programme which is run by DHS's Transportation Security Administration (TSA). That programme had already been suspended by the time the privacy office produced the report. Angry at inadequate privacy protection, Congress has specifically barred the Government from operating another passenger screening programme unless watchdogs are first satisfied that privacy, accuracy and security are good enough.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.out-law.com/page-7626>

12. Justices won't intervene in terror case (CNN, 8 Jan 2007)

WASHINGTON - The federal prosecution of seven Iranian-Americans accused of supporting an alleged terrorist group will go forward after the U.S. Supreme Court refused to intervene. The justices turned down an appeal Monday from the political exiles -- all now U.S. citizens -- who backed an Iranian opposition group that the State Department designated as a "terrorist organization" a decade ago. At issue was the power of the government to try those accused of giving money to groups linked to terrorism, without giving the defendants a chance to show that the organization was improperly designated.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cnn.com/2007/LAW/01/08/scotus.terror/index.html>

13. Female FARC commander tried in US (BBC, 09 Jan 2007)

The trial of a former Colombian guerrilla commander extradited to the United States has begun in Washington. Nayibe Rojas - better known by her alias, Sonia - is accused of smuggling hundreds of tonnes of cocaine into the US. She denies the charges. Ms Rojas was a leading member of the left-wing rebel group, Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Farc).

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/6246641.stm>

14. Striving to Steal Stealth Secrets (Strategy Page, 8 Jan 2007)

The U.S. Department of Defense has a counterintelligence operation that tries to keep tabs on foreigners who spy on the United States. Most of this espionage is seeking American technology secrets. No surprise there, as the United States is the source of most new technology on the planet. The Department of Defense believes that over a hundred foreign countries have people in the U.S. engaging in this kind of espionage. But there are major players; China, Russia and Iran. China's efforts have been the most extensive, and resulted in the largest number of arrests and prosecutions. The Russians benefit from still having some of their Cold War era expertise, and contacts. The Iranians have also been running a technology smuggling operation for over twenty years. However, now the Iranians have found that their smuggling network can also obtain technology secrets, which can be sold or traded to China, Russia, or even North Korea. A major area of interest is stealth technology, followed by satellite navigation, communications and reconnaissance systems.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.strategypage.com/htm/htintel/articles/20070108.aspx>

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS

15. FL: 3 Detained Trying to Enter Port of Miami (AP, 07 Jan 2007)

Authorities detained three men who were caught Sunday trying to slip past security at the Port of Miami, an FBI spokeswoman said. A truck driver raised suspicions when he made inconsistent statements at the port's delivery entrance, FBI spokeswoman Judy Orihuela said. "At some point he said he was alone," she said. However, police stopped the truck

and found two more men in the truck cab, she said. The men, all of Middle Eastern descent, were in the country legally and do not appear on any terrorist watch list, Orihuela said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtopnews.com/?nid=104&sid=1025505>

16. FL: Port of Miami – Terrorism and Trucking (Family Security Matters, 9 Jan 2007)

The arrest of three men of Middle Eastern descent at the Port of Miami on Sunday brings to the forefront concerns of terrorism and the trucking industry. The Iraqi driver of the white Freightliner, pulling a blue cargo container, had all the necessary documentation stating that the truck was legal to transport freight in the United States, according to initial reports. It was the driver's report that he was alone when he was not, coupled with his inability to tell the port security officer what freight was in the container, that triggered an alarm.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.familysecuritymatters.org/homeland.php?id=572306>

17. FL: Package at Port of Miami is harmless, officials say (AP, 8 Jan 2007)

MIAMI, Florida - A package at the Port of Miami which tested positive for plastic explosives was determined to be harmless, authorities said late Monday afternoon. Explosives tests sometimes deliver inaccurate results, officials explained, and that seemed to be the situation Monday. The incident is the second terrorism scare at the port since Sunday. The suspicious package that was to be loaded onto a cruise ship was tested six times, and each time it came back positive for the military-grade explosive known as C4, the Coast Guard said Petty Officer James Judge.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/01/08/port.package.ap/index.html>

18. FL: Crisis plan for schools revamped - Officials develop kits to aid police in an emergency (Star-Banner, 5 Jan 2007)

OCALA - Several new safety measures have been put in place in all of Marion County's schools just in case a gunman should storm a school campus. The new ideas surfaced in the wake of an incident at North Marion High School in October. The campus was locked down after the Sheriff's Office received an anonymous phone call that someone was on campus with a gun planning to kill an ex-girlfriend and her friends. No gunman was ever found. Although no one was hurt in that case, school officials have been working to tweak the School District's already in-depth emergency plan. George Tomy, one of two executive directors overseeing school development and evaluation, told the School Board on Wednesday that new crisis management kits are being prepared by all schools in the event a real gunman should invade a campus.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/yzn7s7>

19. HI: Disaster plan bolsters network - Improvements to emergency alerts include possible use of cell phones to share news (Star Bulletin, 6 Jan 2007)

The state Civil Defense chief envisions a day when island residents would receive text messages on their cell phones to inform them of emergencies and natural disasters. "The wave of the future is not to count on our traditional means of informing people," said Maj. Gen. Robert Lee, state adjutant general. "Technology has changed, and we need to look at multiple means beyond the traditional Civil Defense outlets." The prospect of relaying government information on cell phones and other personal digital devices was one of several recommendations generated by the Governor's Comprehensive Communications Review Committee.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://starbulletin.com/2007/01/06/news/story03.html>

20. IL: Feds Indict Man on WMD Charges in Illinois Shopping Scare (NewsMax.com Wires, 5 Jan 2007)

CHICAGO - A man accused of plotting to use hand grenades in an attack on holiday shoppers was indicted Thursday on charges of attempting to use weapons of mass destruction. Derrick Shareef, 22, was arrested Dec. 6 by an FBI-led anti-terrorism task force following a sting operation in which an undercover informant secretly tape-recorded his plans. Shareef was arrested when he met an undercover agent to trade a pair of stereo speakers for four hand grenades and a handgun to use at the CherryVale shopping mall in Rockford, about 90 miles northwest of Chicago, federal prosecutors said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.newsmax.com/archives/articles/2007/1/5/123644.shtml?s=us>

21. IN: New facility to play key role in state's homeland security (Journal and Courier, 8 Jan 2007)

Last week, Purdue University announced it would lead a \$1.65 million effort to convert the Muscatatuck Indiana National Guard site south of Indianapolis into a homeland security training facility. Tim Collins, managing director of the Purdue Homeland Security Institute, wrote the proposal for the project. Here, he answers questions about what the project could mean.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/ygw87k>

22. MO: Northeast Missouri can better respond to disasters (Quincy Herald-Whig, 4 Jan 2007)

HANNIBAL, Mo. - Hannibal Regional Hospital now has a 24-foot Emergency Response Unit loaded with materials needed to operate a 75-bed field hospital, trauma unit or emergency operations unit. Sixteen trailers stationed across Missouri are equipped with generators, lighting, state-of-the-art communications systems and supplies to handle emergencies from trauma to infectious-disease control. "This is going to be a tremendous asset for the region," said Doug Ruble, facility manager and safety officer for the hospital. "Our responsibility is to house it, maintain it and transport it, and have it ready to go in any type of emergency."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.whig.com/323245347945366.php>

23. NY: Subway bomb plotter sentenced to 30 years (AP, 8 Jan 2007)

NEW YORK - A Pakistani immigrant was sentenced to 30 years in prison Monday for devising an unsuccessful plot to blow up a busy Manhattan subway station as revenge for wartime abuses of Iraqis. Shahawar Matin Siraj, 24, was arrested on the eve of the 2004 Republican National Convention. Though there was no proof he ever obtained explosives or was linked to any terror organizations, prosecutors said his intentions were ominous: He wanted to blow up the Herald Square subway station, a bustling transportation hub located beneath Macy's flagship department store.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cnn.com/2007/LAW/01/08/subway.plot.ap/index.html>

24. NY: TSA Awards Private Screening Contract to US Helicopter and McNeil Security Under Screening Partnership Program (Media Newswire, 4 Jan 2007)

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Transportation Security Administration today announced the signing of a three-party contract with US Helicopter Corporation and McNeil Security Inc., under the agency's Screening Partnership Program (SPP) for the establishment of screening operations to support airport shuttle services at the East 34th Street Heliport in Manhattan.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://media-newswire.com/release_1040520.html

25. TX: Castleberry ISD is the First School District in Texas to Install the Rapid Responder Crisis Management System (PRWeb, 9 Jan 2007)

SEATTLE, WA - The Castleberry Independent School District today announced they are the first school district in Texas to install the Rapid Responder® crisis management system to protect students, staff, and buildings during an emergency. The district was awarded an Emergency Response and Crisis Management grant for \$100,400 from the U.S. Department of Education earlier this year. Seattle-based Prepared Response, Inc. was awarded the technology contract and will be installing Rapid Responder in all of the district's elementary, middle, high school, and administration facilities in the coming months. The district will also receive bio-emergency/infectious disease and critical incident training/response courses as part of the grant.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/Emergency/Planning/prweb496178.htm>

KEY PEOPLE

26. Mike Aguilar Named Federal Security Director of the Year for Western Region (PRNewswire, 9 Jan 2007)

SAN DIEGO - The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has named Michael J. Aguilar, the federal security director (FSD) at San Diego International Airport, McClellan-Palomar, and Imperial Valley Airports, as the agency's FSD of the Year for the Western Region, distinguishing him among his peers. The award recognizes the FSD who makes significant contributions in providing operational direction for federal

security, demonstrating integrity and innovation while adding value to other airports and agencies nationwide.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/yfdm8p>

GANG ACTIVITY

27. CA: Gang member convicted of murdering SF officer (San Mateo County Times, 5 Jan 2007)

SAN FRANCISCO - A gang member was convicted Thursday of second-degree murder in the shooting death of a plainclothes police officer in the city's troubled Bayview neighborhood. After nine days of deliberation, the jury also found David Hill, 23, guilty of attempted murder of a second officer, plus special circumstances including illegal use of a firearm for gang purposes. He faces 40 years to life in prison at his sentencing, which was not immediately scheduled.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.insidebayarea.com/sanmateocountytimes/ci_4955038

28. CA: Jury Convicts Two Leaders Of Aryan Brotherhood Prison Gang (NB4, 9 Jan 2007)

LOS ANGELES - Two men who prosecutors say were at the top of the Aryan Brotherhood's ranks within California's state prisons were convicted in Los Angeles on Tuesday of federal racketeering charges stemming from six murders and three attempted killings. John William "Youngster" Stinson, 52, and Robert Lee "Blinky" Griffin, 59, were convicted of conspiracy to commit racketeering and committing violent acts in aid of racketeering. They could be sentenced to life in federal prison -- in which there is no possibility of parole -- when they return to court for sentencing on May 14.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nbc4.tv/news/10708268/detail.html>

29. CA: 3 arrested in what police say were gang-related killings (The Orange County Register, 9 Jan 2007)

SANTA ANA – Detectives have arrested a man and two teenage boys on suspicion of separate gang-motivated homicides just one block away from each other, officials announced Monday. Officers arrested Jose Antonio Diaz, 20, of Santa Ana on suspicion of fatally shooting Emily Raygoza, 20, in September on the 300 block of East Pine Street, Santa Ana police Sgt. Lorenzo Carrillo said. The motive of Raygoza's death is believed to be a gang rivalry, Carrillo said. Police did not say when they arrested Diaz, however.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/yco9dp>

30. CO: Gang Member's SUV May Have Been Used in NFL Player's Killing (KUSA, 4 Jan 2007)

Denver - KUSA, WLTX's sister station in Denver, has learned the vehicle said to be involved in the shooting death of Darrent Williams is registered to a self-professed gang member. Police are searching for a four-door white Chevy Tahoe with Colorado license

plate 665-OBS. Sources tell KUSA the vehicle is registered to 27-year-old Brian Hicks. Hicks is currently in jail on attempted murder charges. In the case against Hicks, the key witness, Lonnie Clark, was gunned down outside of her home Dec. 6, days before she was to testify against Hicks. The murder of Clark is still under investigation, Hicks was in jail on December 6. Hicks had previously mentioned ties to the a gang.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wltx.com/sports/story.aspx?storyid=45583>

31. KS: Wichita PD Targets Gang Violence (KAKE-TV, 9 Jan 2007)

Wichita Police fear a rise in gang violence could lead to more murders in our area. They talked about a new battle plan on Tuesday that will move officers to help them control the problem. Last June, a rise in gang shootings prompted the Wichita Police Department to rearrange some of its officers in its gang unit to combat the problem. They called the operation "Safe One" and by the end of July, gang violence was down. In August, the unit was disbanded, and returned to normal operations. But by late August, into September, there was a surge in gang violence. A new operation called safe community two began. Gang violence declined, and today, Deputy Chief Tom Stolz says the change will be permanent. The drawback is that this will short some staff in other areas of the department.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.kake.com/news/headlines/5135496.html>

32. MD: New Churchill dress code aims to quell gang-related violence (Black and White Online, 9 Jan 2007)

Beginning Jan. 8, students at Winston Churchill High School must obey a new dress code that prohibits flags, banners, hats, and other headwear in an effort to curb gang-related violence. Churchill principal Joan Benz made the decision to invoke clothing regulations after fighting broke out among six students Jan. 3 and injured a security guard. According to police, four of the six students involved in the fight belong to a Potomac street gang called 54 MOB. Police will prosecute five of the six students as juveniles. Three students face charges of second degree assault and disturbing school activities, one faces charges of disturbing school activities, and another faces two charges of second degree assault. In a letter to the school community Jan. 4, Benz said the new dress code will prevent gang-related violence by prohibiting items that may associate a student with gangs. "Because gang members use 'visual cues' to identify themselves for affiliation and intimidation purposes, Churchill students will not be allowed to wear hats except those directly related to a specific culture or religion," she wrote.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/yb2jxj>

33. NC: Four Area PD's to Share \$100,000 Gang Grant (Dunn Daily Record, 5 Jan 2007)

The Dunn City Council authorized the police department to accept a state grant to prevent gang violence at last night's council meeting. The Governor's Crime Commission has allocated \$1.5 million to be distributed to selected counties which have been targeted for having gang activity. Harnett County had been selected to apply for a two-year grant in

the amount of \$100,000. A memorandum of understanding has been signed by four police organizations - Dunn, Coats, Erwin and Lillington.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/ymxllj>

34. OK: Tulsa mayor calls for mentors to help solve city's gang problem (KSWO, 5 Jan 2007)

TULSA, Okla. Tulsa Mayor Kathy Taylor is calling on city residents to spend one hour each week mentoring at-risk children. The effort is part of Taylor's "Mentoring to the Max" proposal to fight Tulsa's growing problem with gangs. The program is the result of a 62-page Tulsa Gang Summit Report that was developed after a two-day conference last September that discussed ways to stop the spread of gangs.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.kswo.com/Global/story.asp?S=5897711>

35. TX: Apparent Organized Crime Ring Busted in Wichita Falls (News Channel 6, 5 Jan 2007)

A mother and daughter in the Falls are now behind bars after being busted with thousands of dollars of stolen merchandise. The women are apparently part of an organized crime ring and you might be surprised to hear how easily they targeted their victims. These high end goods were bought, but the catch is they were purchased with stolen checks and credit cards. Wichita Falls Financial Crime Unit busted 41 year old Martha Maceyra and her 18 year old daughter Heather Notter. Their crime and charge, forgery and credit card abuse. Police believe the two are part of an organized crime ring, and they're looking for easy targets. WFPD Detective Stephen Venable says, "targeting victims in stores that are leaving purses unattended and locate subjects who look similar to them before started to steal the wallet."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.kauz.com/news/local/5092406.html>

36. UT: Gang-Related Activities on the Rise in Provo (BYU Newsnet, 9 Jan 2007)

"CG 13" stood out in bold black letters against the beige building. The tag was only four days old. Provo residents and BYU students didn't stop to look as they walked into Fat Cats bowling alley. "We never used to get this [graffiti]," said Bonnie Jones, a manager at Fat Cats for 20 years. "It's the first time they've hit our building. We don't want to see it happen here like California." Jones said the police officer from Provo High School easily recognized the tag as one of the Hispanic gangs in the area and said graffiti has been a problem lately. Gang activity in Utah County - where an estimated 70 percent of gangs are Hispanic - has increased over the past seven to eight months and has caught the attention of local law enforcement and school administrators.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://newsnet.byu.edu/story.cfm/62450>

NARCO TRAFFICKING

37. TX: Officers seize 302 pounds of cocaine at Laredo border checkpoint (AP, 5 Jan 2007)

LAREDO, Texas - Blocks of hidden cocaine worth an estimated \$9.6 million were seized Thursday from a van at a Laredo border checkpoint. That's what federal authorities say. U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials say 30-year-old Reina Galarza Ayala and 53-year-old Robertino Galarza Escobar were arrested after officers discovered 302 pounds of cocaine hidden in brick-like packages.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.news8austin.com/content/your_news/default.asp?ArID=177363

38. VA: 12 arrested on charges of dealing cocaine (dailypress.com, 5 Jan 2007)

HAMPTON - Hampton police spent the morning looking for 24 people wanted on felony drug dealing charges as the second part of a massive sweep that started in December. A two-day roundup in December netted 24 people accused of selling cocaine to undercover police during a six-month investigation meant to identify some of Hampton's most active drug dealers. By mid-afternoon Friday, police had arrested half of the suspects on their list. They will continue to search for the rest of the suspects tomorrow.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/ymtrhk>

39. Cambridge men accused of smuggling cocaine into Canada (570 News, 9 Jan 2007)

Three Cambridge men have been charged with smuggling cocaine into Canada in a truckload of oranges. But they say they didn't know the drugs were hidden among the boxes of fruit. The man pleaded not guilty in Kitchener court on Monday to charges of importing cocaine and possession of a narcotic for the purpose of trafficking. The 2005 seizure at the Windsor border was said to be the largest cocaine bust ever for Waterloo regional police. The truckers' lawyers say the accused simply picked up a load of Sunkist oranges in California and were on their way to deliver them in Mississauga. Court heard customs officers seized 56 Kilograms of cocaine wrapped in plastic wrap and tape. The 49 bricks of cocaine were found inside two black duffel bags.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.570news.com/news/local/article.jsp?content=20070109_052218_5644

40. Canada: Cocaine seized in Ozzi probe 90 per cent pure (The Record, 9 Jan 2007)

KITCHENER - One of the biggest drug busts in Waterloo Region history involved cocaine so pure it likely came from the source country without being cut, or diluted, along the distribution chain. Const. David Clark, a lead investigator in a 15-month probe that culminated in dozens of arrests, testified yesterday that analysis of the drug purchased by an undercover officer showed it was more than 90 per cent pure. Since other substances are routinely added to cocaine to boost profits at every step from the source to the street, he said, the results suggested police had infiltrated the upper level of a sophisticated drug ring.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/yhv5cz>

41. Mexico's New President Sends Thousands of Federal Officers to Fight Drug Cartels (New York Times, 07 Jan 2007)

President Felipe Calderón ran last summer on a promise to create jobs, but in his first five weeks as chief executive he has made it clear his first priority is to turn his government into the scourge of organized crime. The president has sent thousands of federal police and troops into the drug-plagued states of Michoacán and Baja California to break up criminal organizations and stop the brutal violence they perpetuate. The federal forces have burned marijuana crops, arrested suspected drug gang members and disarmed local police forces the authorities say are crippled by corruption. "We will continue with the operations that let us re-establish the minimum conditions of security in some parts of the republic, so that little by little we can take back our streets, our parks, our schools," Mr. Calderón said in a New Year's message to the nation.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/01/07/world/americas/07mexico.html?ref=americas>

42. Macedonia: 90 Million Euro Cocaine Haul At Kosovo Border (AKI, 9 Jan 2007)

Skopje - Macedonian police have confiscated 483 kilogrammes of cocaine at a checkpoint on the border with Serbia's United Nations administered province of Kosovo worth 90 million euros. It is the largest drugs haul since Macedonia became independent 15 years ago, prime minister Nikola Grueski told local media. Several European police agencies participated in the operation to break up the drug trafficking ring which involved "criminal organisations from several neighbouring countries," Grueski said. Grueski did not name the countries, or state where the truck originally came from, however. He said the truck driver, a Macedonian citizen, had been detained, but police were looking for a further two individuals with foreign passports. The cocaine, discovered in paint cans in a truck that entered Kosovo from Montenegro on Monday, had originated in Italy and the Czech Republic and was destined for the European Union market, Macedonian television A1, said. The whole operation was organised "directly from his jail cell" by Cavilj Sabani, an ethnic Albanian serving a 40-year jail sentence in Kosovo for smuggling heroine, A1 reported.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/ygxb2m>

43. Australia: Cocaine kills drug trafficker (The Courier Mail, 5 Jan 2007)

A BRISBANE drug trafficker has died after one of 37 condoms loaded with cocaine ruptured in his stomach en route from Asia. The man, from the inner-northern suburb of Kedron, died in hospital from a cocaine overdose after one of the condoms burst after a flight from Thailand to Brisbane on December 20. He was taken by ambulance to the Prince Charles Hospital for surgery but died on December 27. His name had not been released. His alleged accomplice, Natacha Brooke Bond, 26, was also arrested after reportedly ingesting 28 cocaine-filled condoms. She was charged with importing a marketable quantity of cocaine and has been remanded in custody to reappear in Brisbane Magistrate's Court on February 2.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.news.com.au/couriermail/story/0,23739,21018662-3102,00.html>

CYBERTHREAT

44. Pentagon feeling heat from hackers (Australian IT, 4 Jan 2007)

FOREIGN countries, especially nations in the Asia-Pacific region, have intensified their efforts to steal sensitive US defence technology, a Pentagon report says. The Defence Security Service Counterintelligence Office recorded an annual jump of nearly 43 per cent in the number of suspicious foreign contacts reported to US authorities by defence contractors and other defence-related sources. The agency, which helps protect the US defence industry from foreign espionage, said in an unclassified report that spies used phony business offers and computer hackers to target advanced US technology including lasers, sensors, missiles and other systems. The report covered the fiscal year ending September 2005 and is the most recent for which complete statistics are available.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://australianit.news.com.au/articles/0,7204,21010386%5E15306,00.html>

45. Identity theft tool now available in state (Watertown Daily Times, 5 Jan 2007)

MADISON - State Rep. Jeff Fitzgerald, R-Horicon, is encouraging consumers in Wisconsin to get informed about a new tool in the fight against identity theft, the credit freeze. As of Jan. 1, state residents may place a voluntary freeze on their credit reports making it virtually impossible for fraudulent credit to be extended in their name. Recently, the Department of Revenue sent out 170,000 Social Security numbers on the outside of tax forms. This is the latest in a long line of personal information exposures that put consumers at risk all across the country, Fitzgerald, an author of the credit freeze legislation, said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wdtimes.com/articles/2007/01/05/news/news5.txt>

TECHNOLOGY

46. TSA To Test Broadband Over Powerline Technology (InformationWeek, 6 Jan 2007)

Using the powerlines in a building as cabling for an office LAN isn't common today, but a powerline networking project by the Transportation Security Administration could be a harbinger of things to come. The TSA is piloting powerline communications technology at several airports starting later this month. The agency will use products from Telkonet to help speed up network communications--some still at the dial-up stage--between field operatives at airports and Washington headquarters. The TSA plans eventually to wire airport passenger and other screening systems, cameras at ticket counters, and passport readers for Internet access using the technology. Though the project will start at only a few airports, it could spread to 380 as TSA embarks on a \$100 million project to wire all airports internally for broadband access.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/wuqdf>

47. Shoe scanners speed up airport security (AP, 5 Jan 2007)

ORLANDO, Fla. - While thousands of travelers queued up daily at Orlando International Airport, yanking off their shoes and shoving them through X-ray machines, a select few got to avoid the hassle during the latter part of 2006 - and passengers at four other airports nationally will soon join them. These travelers, who paid a \$100 fee and underwent a background check to be part of a test program, bypassed the line and stepped into what may be a glimpse of the future - they inserted a biometric identification card into a kiosk that scanned their irises and their fingerprints to verify their identity, placed a fingertip on an explosives scanning device and stood on a scanning platform that determined whether their footwear hid a bomb.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/business/1310AP_Shoe_Scanner.html

RESOURCES

48. Overview: FY 2007 Infrastructure Protection Program (DHS, released 9 Jan 2007)

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,242642,00.html>

49. Three updated backgrounders now available from AVMA

Updated, detailed information on three zoonotic diseases-plague, tularemia, and Q fever-can now be found by going to the AVMA Web site, www.avma.org, and clicking on Backgrounders under the Reference bar. The backgrounders address how each disease relates to bioterrorism. Aerosolization of *Yersinia pestis* is of most concern when considering the use of plague as a biological weapon. The bacterium *Francisella tularensis*, which causes tularemia, is classified as a category A agent of bioterrorism. And *Coxiella burnetii*, which causes Q fever, is classified as a category B agent of bioterrorism. The backgrounders also provide information on each disease's causative agent, natural distribution, clinical signs, diagnosis, prevention, treatment, and infection control. The backgrounders will be updated regularly.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.avma.org/onlnews/javma/jan07/070115c.asp>

50. The Wikipedia way to better intelligence (Christian Science Monitor, by Douglas Raymond and Paula Broadwell, 08 Jan 2007)

Open-source information gathering can rival, if not surpass, the clandestine intelligence produced by government agencies.

The US State Department's effort last month to issue a travel ban on 12 Iranians suspected of supporting that nation's nuclear program wasn't big news at first. Shortly thereafter, it was revealed that the analysis supporting the ban was provided not by the CIA, but by a single junior analyst using Google searches. The lesson? Advanced technology and Web-savvy citizenry now make it possible for open-source information gathering to rival, if not surpass, the clandestine intelligence produced by government agencies.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/0108/p09s01-coop.html>

51. MI5 Unveils E-Mail Terror Alert Service (AP, 09 Jan 2007)

Britain's MI5 domestic intelligence agency plans to send out e-mail terror alerts to the public, pioneering an effort to use the Internet to warn of heightened risk. Anyone who wants to track the perceived level of threat to Britain which has been set at "severe" since Aug. 14 can receive e-mail updates under the new MI5 scheme. The United States and France have similar alert systems, but do not offer any kind of official e-mail service.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory?id=2781971>

EVENTS

52. Fairfax County Conference Spotlights U.S. Homeland Security Needs and Israeli Technology (Business Wire)

FAIRFAX COUNTY, Va. - Advanced security technology will be the focus of the United States – Israel HLS Technologies Conference in Fairfax County on January 16-18. The event will bring together leading U.S. technology firms, government contractors, federal officials and venture capitalists with some of Israel's most innovative homeland security technology companies. Seventeen Israeli companies will participate in the event that will give them a chance to meet U.S. contractors and systems integrators to assess the federal market place, present business plans to leading investors, and highlight Fairfax County's strong homeland defense industry. The Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA) and the Israeli Export and International Cooperation Institute organized the event at the Center for Innovative Technology in Herndon, Virginia. U.S. companies interested in partnering with Israeli firms are invited to attend the event. The agenda is available at

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

www.fairfaxcountyeda.org/israel_event_0107.htm.

FULL REPORTS

53. Vigilant Shield 2007 Exercises Troops on the Homeland Defense Mission (Sgt. 1st Class Peter Rimar, USARNORTH Public Affairs, 9 Jan 2007)

US Army North recently participated in Vigilant Shield '07, an exercise designed to test the Department of Defense's ability to respond to an attack on the homeland.

The exercise emphasized the synchronized response of various DOD agencies to a variety of homeland defense scenarios, including cyber attacks, border security breaches, missile defense operations and a nuclear accident.

"This was the first true exercise where we could test the integration between US NORTHERN COMMAND, Joint Forces Command, Headquarters-NCR and USARNORTH in response to an attack on our homeland," said LTC Andrew Lucke, Chief, Homeland Defense and Special Plans for U.S. Army North.

Troops from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard, along with Canadian Forces in the U.S. and at the three North American Air Defense regions took part in this exercise.

Interagency participants included the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Energy, state of Arizona, and the city of Tucson, Ariz.

The various types of real-world scenarios developed for this exercise provided a realistic training opportunity for members of the command.

"The scenarios used during this exercise highlighted the importance of interagency coordination and cooperation needed in the initial response phase of a catastrophic event," said Lt. Col. John Baniwicz, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers liaison to USARNORTH.

"The goals of this exercise were to improve the DOD's capacity to manage a series of extreme events; improve seamless interaction of DOD with interagency response, validate authorities, strategies, plans, policies, procedures, and protocols," said MSG David Morrison, Senior Plans NCO. "It emphasized a sustainable, systematic, integrated DOD exercise program to support the national strategy for homeland defense.

54. DHS Issues Credentialing Rule to Secure Access To U.S. Ports (Press Office, TSA, 3 Jan 2007)

WASHINGTON – The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) today announced the issuance of the final rule for the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) program, which enhances port security by checking the backgrounds of workers before they are granted unescorted access to secure areas of vessels and maritime facilities. The rule was posted publicly on TSA's web site January 1, 2007, and has been delivered to the Federal Register for posting in the coming days.

The rule lays out the enrollment process, disqualifying crimes, usage procedures, fees and other requirements for workers, port owners, and operators. These guidelines allow the industry, government and public to prepare for the implementation of this important security program.

The TSA and the U.S. Coast Guard held four public meetings around the nation and received more than 1,900 comments regarding the initial draft of this federal rule. Comments were filed by workers, port facility owners and operators, small businesses and others who would be affected by the new program. All comments were carefully considered in the development of the final rule.

The rule is expected to impact more than 750,000 port employees, longshoreman, mariners, truckers and others who require unescorted access to secure areas of ports and vessels. Specific measures include:

* Security threat assessment – TWIC applicants will undergo a comprehensive background check that looks at criminal history records, terrorist watch lists, immigration status, and outstanding wants and warrants. If no adverse information is disclosed, TSA typically completes a security threat assessment in less than ten days.

* Technology – The credential will be a Smart card containing the applicant's photograph and name, an expiration date, and a serial number. In addition, an integrated circuit chip will store the holder's fingerprint template, a PIN chosen by the individual, and a card holder unique identifier.

* Eligibility – Individuals lacking lawful presence and certain immigration status in the United States, connected to terrorist activity, or convicted of certain crimes will be ineligible for a TWIC.

* Use – During the initial rollout of TWIC workers will present their cards to authorized personnel, who will compare the holder to his or her photo, inspect security features on the TWIC and evaluate the card for signs of tampering. The Coast Guard will verify TWIC cards when conducting vessel and facility inspections and through spot checks using hand-held readers to ensure credentials are valid. Until card reader technology is tested and a regulation issued on access control, facility owners and operators will not be required to utilize TWIC readers for facility access.

* Cost – The fee for TWIC will be between \$139 and \$159, and the TWIC cards will be valid for 5 years. Workers with current, comparable background checks including a HAZMAT endorsement to a commercial driver's license, merchant mariner document or Free and Secure Trade (FAST) credential will pay a discounted fee, between \$107 and \$127. The exact amount of the fee will be established and published once an enrollment support contract is finalized in early 2007. A subsequent Federal Register Notice will be issued at that time.

* Biometric data – Applicants will provide a complete set of fingerprints and sit for a digital photograph. Fingerprint checks will be used as part of the security threat assessment. Fingerprint templates extracted from the biometric data will be stored on the credential.

* Privacy and information security – The entire enrollment record (including all fingerprints collected) will be stored in the TSA system, which is protected through role-based entry, encryption and segmentation to prevent unauthorized use. Employees of a vendor under contract to TSA known as "Trusted Agents" will undergo a TSA security threat assessment prior to collecting biometric and biographic data of TWIC enrollees. All enrollee personal data is deleted from the enrollment center work stations once the applicant completes the process.

TWIC enrollment will begin in March of 2007, initially at a small number of ports. The implementation will comply with the schedule established in the SAFE Port Act. Additional TWIC deployments will increase and continue throughout the year at ports

nationwide on a phased basis. Workers will be notified of when and where to apply prior to the start of the enrollment period in their given area. After issuance of TWIC cards to a port's workers has been accomplished, DHS will at each port establish and publish a deadline by which all port workers at that port will thereafter be required to possess a TWIC for unescorted access.

While developing the regulation for TWIC in the summer and fall of 2006, TSA completed name-based security threat assessments on port employees and longshoremen. These assessments against terrorist watch lists and immigration data sets were an interim measure and did not include the criminal history records check that will be a part of TWIC.

55. House Committee Leaders Announce Foreign Policy Priorities - Key panels to work on issues related to Iraq, Afghanistan, border security (By David Anthony Denny, USINFO Staff Writer, 8 Jan 2007)

Washington - As the 110th Congress gets under way, military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan will be a focus of the four House committees with primary responsibility for foreign relations and military matters, according to committee chairmen.

"Now that Democrats are in charge of Congress, you can expect to see the foreign policy aspect of the Legislative Branch take a new direction," Representative Tom Lantos of California, the chairman of the newly renamed House Committee on Foreign Affairs, said in remarks released January 4. "There will be substantially more oversight of the Executive Branch, with greater emphasis on holding this administration accountable," he said.

Lantos said his committee, which oversees the international diplomatic and political relations of the U.S. government, will hold hearings on implementation of the 9/11 Commission recommendations to strengthen the effort against al-Qaida and other terrorist groups; a new strategy toward North Korea, including bilateral talks if necessary; and ways to make the United States less dependent on foreign sources of energy. The committee also is expected to stress preventing the spread of nuclear technologies to countries and groups that could use them for terrorism. Some lawmakers also have written to Bush calling for a boost in foreign aid spending.

Under Lantos, a naturalized U.S. citizen and the only Nazi Holocaust survivor who is a member of Congress, the committee also is expected to push for decisions on economic sanctions and other diplomatic tools to promote religious freedom and urge the international community to establish a robust civilian protection regime in the Darfur region of Sudan.

The committee also will challenge an expected decision by the administration temporarily to increase troop levels in Iraq, urging instead a focus on diplomacy. Lantos also said he will focus on Iraq reconstruction efforts and said the program "has been riddled with waste, fraud and abuse."

In a September 4, 2006, letter to President Bush, Lantos said he favors:

- Transitioning the U.S. mission in Iraq to counterterrorism, training, logistics and force protection;
- Implementing a "phased redeployment of U.S. forces from Iraq";
- Working with Iraqi leaders to disarm militias and develop a broad-based and sustainable political settlement, which would include amending Iraq's Constitution; and
- Convening an international conference and contact group to support a political settlement in Iraq.

On Afghanistan, Lantos said the United States must do a better job monitoring Afghan reconstruction and must bolster the government against the Taliban. "[T]he United States is on the verge of losing Afghanistan once again," he said. The chairman plans to advocate renewal of the 2002 Afghan Freedom and Support Act, which was not renewed in 2004. The act sets human rights rules and other guidelines for spending billions of dollars in foreign and U.S. aid in Afghanistan.

The new House Armed Services chairman, Representative Ike Skelton of Missouri, announced December 19, 2006, that his priorities will be Iraq, Afghanistan, the war on terrorism, improvements to the state of the U.S. armed forces, nuclear nonproliferation and the future structure of the Department of Defense. Skelton's committee oversees the U.S. armed forces and the Department of Defense.

For Iraq, Skelton said his focus will be "the missions of U.S. forces and force protection, the training of Iraqi Security Forces, and the current status of reconstruction and rebuilding efforts." He also said the committee will look into whether the war against terrorism "is getting the right priority within the services."

The House Select Intelligence Committee deals with matters important both to foreign and military policy, and its new chairman, Representative Silvestre Reyes of Texas, has said the committee's agenda includes examining U.S. involvement in Iraq and the nation's terrorist surveillance program.

On December 6, 2006, after being briefed by the Iraq Study Group, Reyes said the group's report found that neither the Defense Department nor the intelligence community has "invested sufficient people and resources to understand the political and military threat" to U.S. troops in Iraq. "One of my first actions when I assume the Chair of the House Intelligence Committee in January will be to convene a series of comprehensive hearings examining the state of intelligence support to our troops deployed in Iraq," Reyes said.

Incoming House Homeland Security Chairman Bennie Thompson of Mississippi said a significant focus will be placed on immigration and border security issues. His committee

is responsible for oversight of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, where most of its focus is domestic security issues.

Speaking from the floor of the House on September 14, 2006, Thompson provided insight as to his concept for border security. Addressing a rule for consideration of key homeland security legislation, Thompson said that he had offered an amendment to the bill that would include 3,000 more Border Patrol agents, 2,000 new Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers, 250 more detention officers, plus helicopters, all-terrain vehicles, radio communications, GPS devices and night vision goggles. His would be, he said, "an all-encompassing approach to border security and [would] ensure that every mile of the border is monitored and secured 24 hours a day, seven days a week." Thompson's amendment, which was considered before the 2006 mid-term elections returned control of Congress to the Democrats, was not approved at the time.

For more information on the priorities of the 110th Congress, see [The U.S. Congress](#).

For more information on U.S. policies, see [Rebuilding Afghanistan](#), [Iraq Update](#) and [Immigration Reform](#).

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