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16 January 2007 CABLE Gram™

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Take care,

Zhi Hamby-Nye, Editor

Henry Ziegler, Associate Editor

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Issues covered in the CABLE Gram include: Homeland Defense, Homeland Security, Terrorism, Federal Law Enforcement, First Responders, Money Laundering, Identity Theft, NBC Weapons, Cybercrimes, Smuggling, Narco Trafficking, Hazardous Materials and other related topics.

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. Chertoff wants 'insider' threats studied (Business Week, 16 Jan 2007)

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff on Tuesday asked business leaders to assess the potential conflict between national security demands and employee privacy laws regarding risks to the nation's critical infrastructure, such as water, energy and other utilities. "It's something businesses must reflect upon and strike the right balance between security with respect to their work force and the privacy workers expect," Chertoff told The Associated Press following remarks to the National Infrastructure Advisory Council. The council is a group of private sector executives and state and local government leaders who meet four times a year to provide the White House with advice about keeping important networks secure. The private sector controls about 85 percent of the nation's water, energy, transportation and other critical facilities.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D8MMJV005.htm>

2. USJFCOM hosts first-responder focused modeling and simulation demonstration event (USJFCOM, 16 Jan 2007)

U.S. Joint Forces Command is showing how officials and first-responders can use modeling and simulation to prepare for the catastrophe of a simulated 10-kiloton nuclear explosion in Washington, D.C. in an event designed to share information on the capabilities of several different systems.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.jfcom.mil/newslink/storyarchive/2007/pa011607.html>

3. Transportation Laws 2007 (Forbes.com, 15 Jan 2007)

Many of the transportation security and infrastructure-specific issues that the 110th Congress will likely address are sure to introduce more stress to an already strained U.S. and global logistics infrastructure. To help companies prepare, we look at the following transportation-specific issues that the new Congress should address.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/243f4k>

4. TSA Clears Reg. Traveler To Launch At Four Airports (Business Travel News Online, 16 Jan 2007)

Four airports committed to launch the Clear Registered Traveler program gained Transportation Security Administration approval and will begin operating programs this week, Verified Identity Pass said. Airports in Cincinnati, Indianapolis, New York-JFK and San Jose now are poised to roll out the program. The program promises to speed travelers who satisfy a background check through security checkpoints and costs \$99.95 annually. In a statement issued today for the launch of the British Airways-sponsored program at New York-JFK's Terminal 7, Verified Identity Pass founder and CEO Steven Brill said, "Agreements with several other airports and airlines are expected to be

announced during the first quarter of 2007. Additional agreements and launches will be announced shortly and will accelerate through the year."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2u3cyw>

5. Shoe scanner kicks off on wrong foot (USA Today, 16 Jan 2007)

ORLANDO — A new era in aviation security began this morning when hundreds of select travelers at Orlando International Airport were screened by machines designed to let passengers keep their shoes on through airport checkpoints. But the machines didn't always work as travelers expected. Many people who spent a minute or so standing on a brand-new ShoeScanner before getting to a checkpoint had to remove their shoes anyway and put them through checkpoint X-rays because the ShoeScanner found metal in their footwear. ShoeScanners, which are planned for four other airports in coming weeks, can detect only explosives. "It's a waste of time," Tracey Grenkoski of Orlando said after spending more than a minute on a ShoeScanner only to be told she had to remove her high-heeled shoes at the checkpoint. "What's the point of me standing there if I still have to take my shoes off?"

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2007-01-16-shoe-scanner_x.htm

6. TSA Ready to Issue Smart Cards to Port Workers - Rejects GAO call for more testing before rollout (Computerworld, 15 Jan 2007)

The U.S. Transportation Security Administration is moving ahead with plans to start issuing new smart card identity credentials to more than 750,000 port workers starting in March, despite some concerns about its readiness to do so. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, which oversees the TSA, earlier this month published the final rules for the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) program, which was put in place after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. The program aims to boost security at about 4,000 transportation facilities in the country. The TWIC initiative requires that all workers at the nation's transportation facilities carry DHS-issued smart-card credentials that include their photographs and a fingerprint template. All of the workers must also undergo criminal background checks.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/3dxzth>

7. U.S. House: Beef up security at seaports - Our Opinion: Inspecting All Cargo Isn't Easy But Worth A Try (Opinion from the Miami Herald, 16 Jan 2007)

The two security incidents at the Port of Miami last week are reminders of the serious challenges of securing big, bustling seaports from acts of terror. Fortunately, these scares were resolved without injury or great harm, and with officials considering them as learning opportunities. Port officials point to the rapid response of the numerous agencies now entwined in national-security issues and say that this was a much-improved performance than in the past. That's good, too.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/opinion/16468349.htm>

8. Container shipping lines give bright outlook for '07 (Reuters, 16 Jan 2007)

SINGAPORE – Container shipping lines that operate between Asia and America expect improved business in 2007 due to rising demand and moderate capacity growth, an industry group said on Tuesday, setting the stage for price hikes. The Transpacific Stabilization Agreement container carrier group said that it had noted a considerable recovery in market conditions this year. “The trend clearly shows a stronger market than many perceived and our industry appears to be getting a bit smarter about how to manage its business in a challenging environment,” said Ron Widdows, executive chairman of TSA and an executive at Neptune Orient Lines (NOL), in a statement.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/business/20070116-0255-transport-shipping-.html>

9. Increased Business Expected At Freeport Container Port In 2007 (Bahamas News, 16 Jan 2007)

The nine-year-old Freeport Container Port spreads over more than 3,000 acres, and last year moved more than 1.5 million containers. Authorities expect the port to move even more than that in 2007. There are three tiers, eight quadrants and thousands of 20 and 40-foot containers on the site. Those containers are moved around by strange-looking vehicles called straddles, or strads to those who work at the port. The strads are dozens of feet high, and driven by a person perched in a crow’s nest at the top of one of the strad’s four legs. That driver sits sideways so he or she can look down at the containers, and must reverse all the driving operations in order to move the unit – to go left, turn right, and so on. The port employs nearly 800 Bahamians at a total wage bill of about \$25 million each year.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2uwvhvx>

10. Cheney admits expanded military spying role inside US (Agence France-Presse, 15 Jan 2007)

US Vice-President Dick Cheney has admitted that the US military and CIA have been spying on the financial dealings of Americans — intelligence gathering normally authorized only by civilian policing agencies. The New York Times broke the story overnight, reporting that the Department of Defense and Central Intelligence Agency had been using “national security letters” to obtain the banking and credit records of Americans and foreigners suspected of terrorist activities in the United States. The US military and the CIA have long been restricted in their spying activities inside the United States and are barred from conducting traditional domestic law enforcement work in the country. But Cheney confirmed the main outlines of the report and defended the Pentagon and CIA activities as legal and necessary to protect military installations inside the United States.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2gwut3>

11. Feds Defend Partnership With Islamic Group Under Scrutiny (CNSNews.com, 16 Jan 2007) – Some interesting background info.

Federal government agencies are defending their continuing cooperation with a high-profile Islamic organization at a time when its alleged ties to terrorists have come under renewed scrutiny. The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) has historic links to a U.S.-based group charged with terrorist funding, and several individuals associated with CAIR have been jailed for terror-related offenses. Its critics also charge that while CAIR officials condemn terrorist attacks, they commonly refuse to condemn terror groups by name, particularly the Palestinian Hamas and Lebanese-based Hizballah. U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) is the latest lawmaker to criticize the organization, based on concerns raised in law enforcement circles that CAIR gives aid to international terrorist groups. At the same time, CAIR describes itself as the "go to" civil rights organization for federal agencies that deal with Muslims.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/37dwz7>

12. Espionage targets technology - China is the U.S.'s main adversary in international state-sponsored pilfering of businesses' trade secrets (The Roanoke Times, 16 Jan 2007)

SAN JOSE, Calif. - One day in June, FBI agents swooped into two affluent Silicon Valley homes and arrested two engineers. Lan Lee and Yuefei Ge stand accused of stealing proprietary chip designs and software from their employer, NetLogic Microsystems of Mountain View, and Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. in San Jose. Now investigators are asking the Department of Justice to charge Lee, an American citizen, and Ge, a Chinese national, with a more serious crime: economic espionage to benefit China. The case highlights China's role as the main adversary in a complex game of 21st-century espionage where many agents aren't trained spies in trench coats but businessmen, students and researchers. Silicon Valley, counterintelligence experts say, is ground zero.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.roanoke.com/business/wb/wb/xp-100267>

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS

13. GA: Elected Officials Attend Homeland Security Meeting Looking For Answers (WTOC, 16 Jan 2007)

Making things safe is expensive, but some say Washington's ignoring security costs for the port of Savannah. Today a meeting of the minds took place, at the Mighty Eight Air Force Museum, to make sure this doesn't happen again. Director of External Affairs for the Georgia Ports Authority, Robert Morris, knows firsthand how important his port is as one of the 149 in the United States. "The port of Savannah is a major player in this industry and needs a lot of help from the federal government to not only make it the major player but one of the safest players in this industry," said Morris.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtoctv.com/Global/story.asp?S=5947365&nav=EjCgbLf4>

14. KY: Train derailment causes injuries, chemical fire (Reuters, 16 Jan 2007)

ZONETON, Ky. - An 80-car CSX freight train derailed in Kentucky on Tuesday, sending 11 people to hospital and prompting evacuations when hazardous chemicals aboard caught fire and belched clouds of smoke, authorities said. Kentucky Gov. Ernie Fletcher said there were "no significant injuries and certainly no fatalities." Emergency officials said the danger of an explosion appeared to have passed and the smoke was being carried up and away rather than spreading into populated areas. They planned to let the fire burn itself out but could not estimate how long that might take.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N16209615.htm>

15. LA: Student to be deported after identity theft conviction (The Daily Reveille, 16 Jan 2007)

Former University student Asim Khan, who was arrested in October on 40 counts of identity theft of University students, is being deported back to Kenya. Kurt Wall, assistant district attorney for East Baton Rouge Parish, said Khan is expected to be deported by the end of the month. LSUPD arrested Khan on Sept. 25 on four counts of forgery, a count of bank fraud and a count of felony theft. LSUPD spokesman Maj. Lawrence Rabalais said four students reported an e-mail from the Office of the University Registrar asking for their Social Security numbers.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2nmndt>

16. MD: BWI second in losses of uniforms, ID cards (Washington Times, 16 Jan 2007)

At least 426 uniforms and identification cards issued to security screeners at Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport have been lost or stolen since late 2001, according to Transportation Security Administration records. The only other airport to report more missing uniforms and badges in the past five years is Los Angeles International Airport, whose security screeners lost at least 789. More than 3,600 TSA or Homeland Security Department airport security uniforms and credentials have disappeared from November 2001, when the TSA was created, through Sept. 30, records show.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://washingtontimes.com/business/20070115-115346-2426r.htm>

17. OK: Smuggling operation led to death of 7, 2 identified (WWAY, 16 Jan 2007)

OKLAHOMA CITY A federal immigration spokesman says a minivan that crashed on Interstate 40 in Oklahoma on Sunday was carrying illegal immigrants being smuggled into the U-S. Seven of the 12 people in the van -- which was heading to North Carolina -- died in the crash after the van skidded on ice and crossed the median, then was hit head-on by a tractor-trailer rig. Eight of the 12 are from Mexico, one from Durham (North Carolina), and one from Detroit. The homes of the other two were not known. Each of the 12 are described as Hispanic.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.wwaytv3.com/Global/story.asp?S=5945828&nav=menu70_2

18. PA: Measure will help put 'freeze' on identity theft (The Derrick and NewsHerald, 15 Jan 2007)

Legislation that will give consumers the right to some of the strongest protections available against identity theft is now law. State Rep. Fred McIlhattan (R-63rd) of Clarion said Pennsylvania residents now have the ability to place a freeze on their credit files maintained by the three national credit bureaus - TransUnion, Experian and Equifax. Under the new "Credit Reporting Agency Law," consumers can freeze their credit file with a credit bureau by sending a written request to the bureau by certified mail. Freezes must be placed on a consumer's file no later than five business days after the request is received. There are some limited exceptions on access. Where permitted by law, courts, law enforcement agencies, government offices and some other entities can still obtain credit information regardless of whether a freeze is in place.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.thederrick.com/stories/01162007-2016.shtml>

19. TX: Juror deliberations to resume Tuesday in smuggling deaths retrial (KLTV, 16 Jan 2007)

HOUSTON A truck driver convicted for his role in the nation's deadliest human smuggling attempt continues to wait for a jury's decision on whether he will be sentenced to death. After a five-day break, a jury was expected to resume deliberations today in the retrial of Tyrone Williams. Nineteen illegal immigrants who were locked in Williams' trailer for hours eventually died from dehydration, overheating and suffocation in 2003. The jury is deciding whether to sentence Williams to death or life in prison without parole. They can also let a judge issue a sentence that could range from no incarceration to life in prison without parole.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.kltv.com/Global/story.asp?S=5942790&nav=1TjD>

KEY PEOPLE

20. Gail Linkins Named Federal Security Director of the Year for Central Region (PRNewswire, 16 Jan 2007)

MOBILE, Ala. - The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has named Gail Linkins, the federal security director (FSD) at Mobile Regional Airport, Montgomery Regional-Dannelly Field and Dothan Regional airports, as the agency's FSD of the Year for the Central Region. The award recognizes the FSD who makes significant contributions in providing operational direction for airport security, demonstrating integrity and innovation while adding value to other airports and agencies nationwide.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/36raoa>

GANG ACTIVITY

21. CA: Border Patrol agent to be arraigned in smuggling case (News Channel 3, 16 Jan 2007)

SAN DIEGO A Border Patrol agent accused of aiding an immigrant smuggling ring is expected to be arraigned today in San Diego. Jose Olivas was arrested last week. The 10-year border patrol veteran is accused of helping ring members smuggle people into Orange County. A source tells the L-A Times that Olivas allegedly let smugglers know when the San Clemente Border Patrol checkpoint would be closed so immigrants could be brought across safely.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.kesq.com/Global/story.asp?S=5943138&nav=9qrx>

22. FL: Head of mob group gets 20-year sentence (Miami Herald, 15 Jan 2007)

Jose Miguel Battle Sr., the ailing *padrino* of the Cuban mob, was sentenced to 20 years in prison on a racketeering conviction in Miami federal court. Another defendant, Julio Acuña, received life imprisonment. The sentences were handed down Friday. Battle's son, Jose Miguel Battle Jr., faces sentencing in March. The elder Battle was the boss of "The Corporation," a Cuban-American crime syndicate that stretched from Florida to New York to Latin America.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/16465327.htm>

23. MD: MS-13 gang member pleads guilty to conspiracy (Baltimore Sun, 16 Jan 2007)

A member of the MS-13 gang pleaded guilty in federal court in Maryland today for charges stemming from attacks on rival gang members, prosecutors said. Walter Noel Barahona, also known as "Lil Loco," 23, of Hyattsville pleaded guilty to conspiracy to conduct and participate in racketeering enterprise activities of an MS-13 gang. Barahona was one of 22 alleged MS-13 gang members indicted in 2005 on charges related to illegal gang activities, prosecutors said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2m4lcj>

24. NV: Hells Angel gets 4 years for part in Laughlin brawl (AP, 15 Jan 2007)

LAS VEGAS - A member of the Hells Angels motorcycle gang was sentenced Friday to four years and three months in a federal prison for his role in a 2002 brawl with a rival gang that left three people dead. "We're very pleased," said David Chesnoff, a lawyer for Calvin Schaefer, a sheet metal worker from Chandler, who pleaded guilty in October to federal charges of committing a violent crime, battery, in aid of racketeering. Federal prosecutors attempted to try Schaefer and 10 other Hells Angels on criminal racketeering charges, arguing the group acted as a criminal enterprise, like the Mafia, in plotting the massive brawl against members of the Mongols motorcycle club at a biker rally in Laughlin, 100 miles south of Las Vegas.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/38jzo8>

25. NY: Colombo's bad boys go on trial (Daily News, 16 Jan 2007)

An infamous piece of Mafia history - the 1971 hit on Joe Colombo - will be resurrected this week when two of his sons go on trial for allegedly carrying on the family business.

Anthony and Christopher Colombo are accused of extortion and loansharking - threatening bodily harm and worse to debtors - as part of a racketeering conspiracy. Pretrial hearings show the sons learned a few lessons from their father, who used to stage Italian-American unity rallies where he denounced the Mafia as a myth. The sons' attorneys have attacked prosecution attempts to mention La Cosa Nostra or their link to the man who gave the Colombo crime family its name - and who was gunned down at a Columbus Circle rally.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nydailynews.com/front/story/489129p-411804c.html>

26. Mexican Officials Continue Crackdown on Drug Trafficking in Tijuana (KPBS, 15 Jan 2007)

The attorney general's office in Mexico sentenced a member of the Arellano Felix drug cartel to prison today. Federal prosecutors in Mexico also say they're investigating two others for possible ties to the cartel, including a Tecate policeman. KPBS Reporter Amy Isackson has details. Federal prosecutors in Mexico say Luis Cosme Espinoza trafficked drugs and performed kidnappings for the Arellano Felix drug cartel. The cartel is based in Tijuana. U.S. authorities arrested the suspected leader, Francisco Javier Arellano Felix, last August. Mexican prosecutors say Cosme had a stockpile of guns and ammunition. They say the firearms belonged to the Mexican Army, Air Force and Navy.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.kpbs.org/news/local?id=7059>

NARCO TRAFFICKING

27. FL: Fort Myers Police arrest 14 in reverse drug sting (naplesnews.com, 13 Jan 2007)

The Fort Myers Police Department's Special Investigations Group and uniformed officers conducted a reverse drug operation within the city on Friday, arresting 14 people on 11 felony and 6 misdemeanor charges. An officer posed as a street-level drug dealer in the areas of Central Avenue/Maple Avenue and the 3000 block of Second Street.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2hzyuc>

28. OH: \$7M cocaine shipment seized (The Enquirer, 16 Jan 2007)

Agents of the Regional Narcotics Unit arrested two Cincinnati businessmen Monday who were allegedly receiving a shipment of 135 pounds of cocaine with a street value of more than \$7 million, Hamilton County Sheriff Simon L. Leis said today. The sheriff's office said Erick Clisby, 38, 11839 Hamlet Road, Forest Park, proprietor of Classic Autobody, 11090 Southland Boulevard, and Cornell Clisby, 10913 Fallstone Drive, Springdale, proprietor of Clisby Cleaning and Construction, LLC, 514 W. Sharon Road, were charged with drug trafficking and drug conspiracy offenses. Both men were arrested in Hamilton County as they made arrangements to take possession of 135 pounds of cocaine, the sheriff's office said in a statement.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2d45h7>

29. SD: State troopers arrest 3 after cocaine found in van (Argus Leader, 16 Jan 2007)

Three men were arrested Sunday near Rapid City after the South Dakota State Patrol found three kilograms of cocaine in their vehicle. A trooper stopped the 1996 Dodge Caravan for traffic violations on Interstate 90 - nine miles east of Rapid City - at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, the state patrol said. The trooper's service dog pointed to a rear compartment, which held the drugs.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2gltyb>

30. Israeli Pleads to U.S. Ecstasy Charges (AP, 16 Jan 2007)

An Israeli described as one of the world's biggest drug traffickers pleaded guilty Tuesday to conspiring to import thousands of Ecstasy tablets into the United States and was sentenced to 17 years in prison. Zeev Rosenstein, a 52-year-old reputed organized crime figure known as "The Fat Man," will serve his time in Israel. Rosenstein was extradited from Israel last March to face charges of conspiring to distribute more than 850,000 Ecstasy pills. The Drug Enforcement Administration listed Rosenstein as one of the 44 biggest global traffickers, saying his network spanned four continents.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtopnews.com/?nid=104&sid=1034314>

31. Ecuador's divided loyalties - Both fighter and front in the drug war, it chafes at U.S. presence on its soil (Los Angeles Times, 15 Jan 2007)

MANTA, ECUADOR — The United States is battling a dangerous new front in its South American drug war — just as a protege of anti-American leader Hugo Chavez comes to power in Ecuador vowing to shut down a U.S. base dedicated to narcotics surveillance. Officials have expressed growing concern that this Andean nation is being "Colombianized," illustrated by record cocaine seizures in the last two years, the destruction of a major cocaine-processing lab and a recent gangland-style killing. In recent months, U.S. and Ecuadorean forces have collaborated in the drug fight. But with today's inauguration of leftist President Rafael Correa, some U.S. officials worry the cooperation might be greatly curtailed.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2jg7gk>

32. U.S. arrests 117 alleged members of Colombian drug ring (Reuters, 16 Jan 2007)

A Colombian drug ring that smuggled \$7.5 million of cocaine and heroin into the United States was shut down on Tuesday with the arrest of 117 of its suspected members, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration said. Among the cache seized by drug agents was 55 kilograms of heroin, 173 kilograms of cocaine, \$260,000 in cash, 12 vehicles and nine weapons, said John Gilbride, special agent for the DEA's New York office. A federal grand jury in Manhattan has charged 10 of the suspects, including alleged ringleader Ismael Jimenez-Sanchez, a Colombian citizen, with conspiracy to import heroin, U.S. Attorney Michael Garcia said. If convicted, each faces life in prison and a \$4 million fine, Garcia said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2a9n9r>

33. Colombia: Cartel kingpin nabbed after gunbattle (AP, 15 Jan 2007)

BOGOTA, Colombia - A reputed drug kingpin was captured Monday following a shootout, police said, ending a years-long hunt for a man wanted by American officials for allegedly smuggling tons of cocaine into the United States. Eugenio Montoya Sanchez is believed by authorities to be a leader of the Norte del Valle drug cartel, which the FBI lists on its Web site as the "most powerful and violent drug-trafficking organization in Colombia." Together with his brother Diego Montoya Sanchez -- the alleged mastermind of the cartel that operates out of the southern city of Cali -- he is wanted for extradition by a U.S. federal court in Miami for smuggling hundreds of tons of cocaine into the United States. U.S. anti-narcotic authorities in Colombia had offered a \$5 million reward for the capture of each of the brothers.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/americas/01/15/colombia.kingpin.ap/index.html>

34. Ireland: Cocaine on every bank note – study (IrishHealth.com, 10 Jan 2007)

A study of bank notes currently in circulation in the greater Dublin area found that every single one was contaminated with cocaine. A sample of 45 bank notes, in denominations of €5, €10, €20 and €50, were analysed as part of an ongoing research project into the detection of illicit drug use. Every single one was contaminated with cocaine, with the highest amounts of cocaine residue being detected on the €20 and €50 notes. Three of the notes were also found to be contaminated with heroin.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.irishhealth.com/?level=4&id=10815>

35. Balkans: Cocaine Smuggling Route Traced From South America To Europe (AKI, 10 Jan 2007)

Belgrade - The 90 million euro cocaine haul discovered this week by Macedonian customs officials at a checkpoint on the border with Serbia's Kosovo province had journeyed from Venezuela through half a dozen countries and the main organiser was a Belgrade based businesswoman with dual Macedonian and Serbian citizenship, police reports said. According to Macedonian police, the 483 kilogrammes of cocaine, which was concealed in paint cans aboard a truck, was loaded in November in Venezuelan port of La Guaira, and passed undetected through several Latin American ports and Spain. It was then brought to the Montenegro port of Bar from the southern Italian port of Gioia Tauro by the Croatian ship 'Losinj'. The 'Losinj' crew had no idea that the drug was hidden in paint cans, because the shippers take accompanying documents at face value and don't check the cargo, said Croatian police spokesman Zlatko Mehun.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/3bxudn>

36. Kuwaiti royal sentenced to die; Trafficked drugs (Arab Times, 16 Jan 2007)

KUWAIT CITY: The Criminal Court Sunday sentenced a well-known businessman Talal from Kuwait's ruling family to capital punishment and fined him KD 10,000 for

trafficking in drugs and money laundering. Five other men involved in the case are Tazhi, an Indian; Ameer, a Bangladeshi; Faisal, a Bedoun; Fadi, a Leba-nese and an Iraqi, (Abdullah). The court also sentenced Talal to 10 years imprisonment — three years for possessing unlicensed arms and ammunition and seven for money laundering. The court also fined Talal the same amount of money he 'earned' from the sale of drugs and ordered the confiscation of money, drugs and guns and ammunition seized from the convicts.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.arabtimesonline.com/arabtimes/kuwait/Viewdet.asp?ID=9556&cat=a>

37. Ending an Opium War - Poppies and Afghan Recovery Can Both Bloom (Washington Post, by Anne Applebaum, 16 Jan 2007)

Once, the British Empire fought a war for the right to sell opium in China. In retrospect, history has judged that war destructive and wasteful, a shameless battle of colonizers against the colonized that in the end helped neither one. Now, NATO is fighting a war to eradicate opium from Afghanistan. Allegedly, the goals this time around are different. According to the British government, Afghanistan's illicit drug trade poses the "gravest threat to the long term security, development, and effective governance of Afghanistan," particularly since the Taliban is believed to be the biggest beneficiary of drug sales. Convinced that this time they are doing the morally right thing, Western governments are spending hundreds of millions of dollars bulldozing poppy fields, building up counternarcotics squads and financing alternative crops in Afghanistan. Chemical spraying may begin as early as this spring. But in retrospect, might history not judge this war to be every bit as destructive and wasteful as the original Opium Wars?

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/yrcgf9>

CYBERTHREAT & THEFT

38. FBI: Terrorists Monitoring Public Webcams (Canadian Press, 12 Jan 2007)

OTTAWA - Key U.S. security agencies warn that terrorists might exploit pictures of sensitive facilities such as airports that can be routinely viewed by the public through Internet feeds. A confidential assessment jointly prepared by the FBI and the U.S. Homeland Security Department says online webcams could be a valuable tool for extremists determined to attack critical targets. The agencies urge government organizations and private-sector partners to "review the information available on their websites, and balance the public need for information with security concerns."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.groundsupportmagazine.com/article/article.jsp?id=2441&siteSection=1>

39. Reports on Online Identity Theft Trends (Government Technology, 16 Jan 2007)

McAfee, Inc. announced the availability of a [white paper](#) titled "Identity Theft" highlighting global identity theft trends, including a dramatic increase in online and computer-based identity theft. According to the report, the number of keyloggers -- malicious software code that tracks typing activity to capture passwords and other private information -- has increased by 250 percent between January 2004 and May 2006.

Additional findings show that the number of phishing alerts tracked by the Anti-Phishing Working Group has multiplied 100-fold over the same period of time. The report also provides practical guidelines that minimize the risk of identity theft to help readers protect themselves and prevent this increasingly common crime.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govtech.net/magazine/channel_story.php/103329

40. U.S.: No Net governance changes expected (c|net, 16 Jan 2007)

WASHINGTON - Are tensions over the United States' historic influence over key Internet management functions a thing of the past? Two senior Bush administration officials involved in setting Net policy say that's the case. At a meeting here organized by the Federal Communications Bar Association, U.S. Ambassador David Gross and Assistant Secretary of Commerce John Kneuer said they view the question as settled: No United Nations body will be exercising additional control over tasks like handing out numeric Internet addresses or operating the root servers that power the Internet anytime soon.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2cmj2n>

TECHNOLOGY

41. Inexpensive Vaccines Against Diseases May be Sooner Than You Think (Voice of America, 16 Jan 2007)

Orlando, Florida - A U.S. scientist is developing a method to produce inexpensive vaccines against disease. Professor Henry Daniell, from the University of Central Florida, has found a way to genetically engineer plants to make large amounts of certain vaccines. The drugs, taken orally rather than by injection, would be much cheaper than traditional vaccines -- making them ideal for use in poor countries. And the U.S. government hopes the research will boost the availability of medicines to fight bio-terror threats like anthrax. At this lab, scientists are working to revolutionize the way people around the world are vaccinated for a range of diseases.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.voanews.com/english/2007-01-16-voa42.cfm>

42. Pill that could protect from nuclear fallout (DrugResearcher.com, 15 Jan 2007)

Humanetics have been cleared to start human clinical testing of a new drug that could provide protection from the effects of nuclear fallout. The Minnesota based company have received approval from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to begin Phase I clinical trials of Bio 300, a tyrosine kinase inhibitor that could prevent and protect against acute radiation syndrome (ARS). There are no drugs currently approved by the FDA for the prevention and treatment of the bone marrow damage seen in ARS. Bio 300 is touted as a 'next generation' oral therapy. As Ronald Zenk, CEO of Humanetics Corporation said: *"Based on our preclinical work on BIO, we are confident it will be a safe and practical countermeasure for ARS."*

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2ojx2y>

43. Northrop tests defense gear for commercial jets (MarketWatch, 15 Jan 2007)

LOS ANGELES - First, pilots behind barricaded doors with handguns, and now laser beams to deflect missiles away from passenger jets? That appears to be what's next for commercial aircraft as defense giant Northrop Grumman Corp. started testing Monday on a system designed to further protect passenger jets from terrorist attacks. Under a contract with the Department of Homeland Security, Los Angeles-based Northrop was to start the first flights of jet aircraft equipped with a detection system mounted underneath its fuselage. The system's designed to detect a shoulder-fired missile launch and guide it away from the passenger jet within seconds. With more than two dozen terrorist groups identified as possessing shoulder-fired missile systems such as U.S.-made Stingers, the prospect of such an attack is key in the minds of U.S. officials.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/326xs9>

44. Europe Hopes to Thwart Terrorists With a High-Tech Aircraft That Snoops (Washington Post, 16 Jan 2007)

PARIS - Imagine stepping aboard Europe's anti-terrorist plane of the future. At the door, a hand-held electronic nose reputedly 30 times more sensitive than a dog's snout sniffs passengers for dangerous chemicals and vapors. After takeoff, computers monitoring cabin conversations pick up suspicious words in Seat 9B, fingernail-size video cameras detect nervous facial tics on the passenger in 21F, and a hidden microphone records questionable noises from the passenger in the rear toilet. Buzzers or flashing lights on a computer screen warn the crew and pilot of potential trouble in each spot. If a hijacker manages to bypass the fingerprint-activated locks on the cockpit door and grabs the controls, an internal computer takes over and diverts the plane from high-rise buildings, a nuclear plant or any other pre-programmed no-fly zone.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/yq7loy>

OPPORTUNITIES

45. Airport weighs TSA ad proposal (The Commercial Appeal, 16 Jan 2007)

Don't look now, but the next time you go through security at the airport, the bins for your personal stuff could well be the latest advertising platform, sporting ads you'd be hard-pressed not to see as you unload your pockets and laptop. The Transportation Security Administration will be accepting proposals Feb. 2-16 from airports that would like to participate in a pilot test -- and rake in a whole new profit stream. Initial tests, which included carts with wheels for returning the empty tubs to the front of the line, were conducted at Los Angeles International Airport and three airports in Tennessee, Tri-Cities, Knoxville and Chattanooga.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2syg7q>

RESOURCES

46. Government's Web site gets new name (National Journal's Technology Daily, 16 Jan 2007)

The U.S. government's official Internet home has a new name because comments from the public indicated that the old moniker -- FirstGov.gov -- was confusing and hard to remember. The site is now USA.gov, according to a notice on the Web site and the site's URL. Last year, more than 600,000 people typed "USA.gov" into their Web browser when searching for government information, the notice stated. In a 2006 telephone survey, 79 percent of respondents said they preferred the name USA.gov. Today, Internet users who enter Firstgov.gov into their browsers are redirected to USA.gov.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=35867&dcn=e_gvet

47. Canada: Police create smuggling hotline for truckers (Today's Trucking Online, 15 Jan 2007)

VANCOUVER - The RCMP in southern B.C. have set up a hotline that allows truckers to tip off police of cross-border drug smuggling activity. According to the Vancouver Province newspaper, the (1-888-598-4602) features services in English and Punjabi. Cpl. Norm Massie of the RCMP E Division Border Integrity Unit told the newspaper the hotline is designed to allow truckers who know of "compromised colleagues, and drivers who may themselves have been approached to run drugs, to call anonymously." Massie said in the interview that the trucking industry itself isn't the problem, but is being "preyed on" by organized crime. "[Trucking] appears to be their next opportunity."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.todaystrucking.com/news.cfm?intDocID=17288>

FULL REPORTS

48. Fact Sheet: Department of Justice Efforts to Stop Gang Violence in America's Communities (US Department of Justice, 16 Jan 2007)

WASHINGTON - At the direction of the Attorney General, the Department has taken several important steps to address gang violence. First, the Department established an Anti-Gang Coordination Committee to organize the Department's wide-ranging efforts to combat gangs. Second, each United States Attorney has appointed an Anti-Gang Coordinator to provide leadership and focus to our anti-gang efforts at the district level. Third, the Anti-Gang Coordinators, in consultation with their local law enforcement and community partners, have developed comprehensive, district wide strategies to address the gang problems in their districts. All of the Department's law enforcement components are engaged in a coordinated effort to combat gang violence.

GangTECC, National Gang Intelligence Center, and Gang Squad

Through GangTECC, the National Gang Intelligence Center, and Gang Squad, the Department has established national coordination, intelligence and enforcement mechanisms aimed at dismantling the most significant, violent, national and regional gangs.

* Coordination -- The Department has created a new national multi-agency, anti-gang task force- the Gang Targeting, Enforcement, and Coordination Center (GangTECC). GangTECC targets the nation's most violent and far- reaching gangs by bringing together representatives from all of the operational components of the Department, as well as from other agencies. Led by the Criminal Division, the center coordinates overlapping investigations, ensures that tactical and strategic intelligence is shared among law enforcement agencies, and serves as a central coordinating center for multi-jurisdictional gang investigations involving federal law enforcement agencies.

* Intelligence -- GangTECC works hand-in-hand with the new National Gang Intelligence Center (NGIC). The NGIC integrates the gang intelligence assets of all Department of Justice agencies, and has established partnerships with other federal, state and local agencies that possess gang-related information.

* Enforcement -- The Criminal Division has established a new Gang Squad, a core team of eight experienced anti-gang prosecutors who serve as the prosecutorial arm of the Department's efforts to achieve maximum national impact against violent gangs.

Six Site Comprehensive Anti-Gang Program

In March 2006, the Attorney General announced six sites that would receive \$2.5 million in grants as part of a new comprehensive initiative that focuses on reducing gang membership and gang violence through enforcement, prevention and re-entry strategies. These sites are: Los Angeles, Tampa, Cleveland, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Milwaukee, and Pennsylvania's 222 Corridor. The initiative includes the following measures:

* Enforcement -- Approximately \$1 million per site to help create enforcement programs that focus law enforcement efforts on the most significant violent gang offenders.

* Prevention -- Approximately \$1 million per site to focus on reducing youth gang crime and violence by addressing the full range of personal, family and community factors that contribute to juvenile delinquency and gang activity.

* Re-entry -- Approximately \$500,000 per site to create mentor-based re- entry assistance programs with faith-based and other community organizations that will provide transitional housing, job readiness and placement assistance, substance abuse and mental health treatment to prisoners re-entering society.

Project Safe Neighborhoods

In May 2001, President Bush announced Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), a comprehensive initiative to reduce gun crime in America by linking together federal, state and local law enforcement, prosecutors and community leaders. The Attorney General has recently expanded the PSN initiative as part of the Department's anti-gang efforts.

* In FY 2006, through the PSN initiative, the Department filed 10,425 federal gun crime cases against 12,479 defendants. This is a 66 percent increase in cases filed and a 55 percent increase in defendants prosecuted since FY 2000. In FY 2006, over 93 percent of those offenders received prison terms and over 50 percent were sentenced to three or more years in prison.

* In its first six years, this Administration has more than doubled the number of firearms prosecutions brought in the last six years of the previous Administration. From FY 2001 through FY 2006, the Department filed 58,464 federal firearms cases against 71,019 defendants -- more than a 100 percent increase in cases filed from the prior six-year period.

* In FY 2006, the Department has provided approximately \$30 million in state and local grants and training and technical assistance to support PSN's new and enhanced anti-gang work. Those funds are in addition to the approximately \$10 million in grant funds provided in FY 2006 in support of traditional PSN gun crime reduction programs.

Weed and Seed Initiative

The Weed and Seed Program is a community-based multi-agency approach to law enforcement, crime prevention, and neighborhood restoration. "Weeding" consists of law enforcement and community policing; and "seeding" consists of efforts designed to prevent, intervene, and treat crime, and social and economic distress. There are over 300 Weed and Seed sites, and in FY 2006, over 200 communities received Weed and Seed funding.

International Cooperation

The Department also works with the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of State and our international partners to fight gangs that operate both in the United States and other countries and to ensure that illegal aliens who are gang members are prosecuted and/or removed from the United States.

* In 2006, the Department has provided training to Assistant United States Attorneys on using immigration offenses as part of anti-gang efforts, and is currently working with countries in Central America to develop more efficient and effective information sharing and repatriation mechanisms.

* The Department has also worked with the Department of Homeland Security on Operation Community Shield, which is aimed at disrupting and dismantling international gangs.

Department of Justice Task Forces

In addition to the Attorney General's Department-wide Anti-Gang Initiative, each of the Department's components work with state and local law enforcement on specific programs to curb the threat of gang violence nationwide. These include:

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Efforts

* The ATF-led Violent Crime Impact (VCIT) teams identify, target and arrest violent criminals to reduce the occurrence of homicide and firearm-related violent crime. These teams include federal agents as well as state and local law enforcement, and are currently deployed in 25 cities across the country.

* In addition to the VCIT initiative, ATF participates with state and local law enforcement and other federal agencies on 110 anti-gang task forces throughout the country.

Drug Enforcement Administration Efforts

* The DEA Mobile Enforcement Team (MET) Program responds to requests from state, local, and tribal law enforcement officials to help stem the rise in drug-related violence and methamphetamine trafficking. Often times, these MET deployments target violent gangs involved in drug trafficking activity, such as the Hell's Angels, Latin Kings, Bloods, Crips, Mexican Mafia, and Gangster Disciples. There are currently 22 METs located throughout the United States and the Caribbean.

* In FY 2006, the METs initiated 30 deployments. Of these, 30 percent were gang related. Additionally, between FY 2005 and 2006, there was a 45 percent increase in the number of the DEA's active Priority Target Organization (PTO) cases that involved gangs.

Federal Bureau of Investigation Efforts

* FBI-led Safe Streets Task Forces focus on dismantling organized gangs by addressing them as criminal enterprises. As of January 2007, the FBI operates more than 170 Task Forces (TFs) in its 56 field offices, including over 130 Safe Streets Task Forces (SSTFs) focused on violent gangs and over 30 SSTFs focused on violent crime.

* The FBI has launched a multi-agency MS-13 National Gang Task Force focused specifically on dismantling MS-13 by increasing the flow of information and intelligence, coordinating investigations, and helping local and state law enforcement more easily identify the gang in their areas.

Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCEDTF)

* The OCEDTF program targets large, violent, national gangs involved in significant drug trafficking. The number of new gang-related OCEDTF investigations increased 37 percent from FY 2005 to FY 2006.

U.S. Marshals Service

* The U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) leads six Regional Fugitive Task Forces, as well as 86 district-based task forces across the country, forming the backbone of the USMS' fugitive apprehension efforts. The USMS investigative network extends to its three foreign field offices and its Regional Technical Operations Centers, which provide sophisticated electronic and air surveillance support in fugitive apprehensions on the federal, state and local levels. In FY 2006, Deputy U.S. Marshals and their task force partners apprehended over 88,100 fugitives. Over 1,690 of those fugitives were gang-related.

* In October 2006, Deputy United States Marshals teamed up with thousands of fellow federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to conduct the largest ever round up of fugitive sex-offenders and wanted gang members. Dubbed "Operation FALCON III" (Federal And Local Cops Organized Nationally), Deputy Marshals and their fellow task force members arrested 10,773 felony fugitives. This number includes 1,659 sex offenders and 364 gang members.

Prevention and Public Awareness

* Over the past year, nearly all of the United States Attorneys have convened a Gang Prevention Summit, designed to explore additional opportunities in the area of gang prevention. The goal of the summits was to bring together law enforcement and community leaders to discuss best practices, identify gaps in services, and create a prevention plan to target at-risk youth within their individual communities. These summits have reached over 10,000 law enforcement officers, prosecutors, social service providers, prevention practitioners, and members of the faith-based community.

* In partnership with the Ad Council, the Department has created two new PSN public service announcements (PSAs) intended to educate youth about the perils of gun crime and the consequences of joining gangs. The announcements have been distributed to English and Spanish language radio stations nationwide and began airing in early July 2006.

* In addition to the existing anti-gang training and technical assistance provided by Department components, the Department has hosted two Gang Prevention webcasts that are accessible by the public. These webcasts share best practices in gang prevention; identify resources; support and complement the Attorney General's Anti-Gang Initiative; emphasize a community-based approach to gang prevention and the importance of collaboration; and assist the United States Attorneys in implementing their district-wide anti-gang strategies. The webcasts are available at <http://www.dojconnect.com>.

* The Department provides funding for the Gang Resistance, Education and Training Program (GREAT) utilized in schools throughout the country. GREAT is a school-based, law enforcement officer-instructed curriculum. The program's primary objective is

prevention and is intended as an immunization against delinquency, youth violence, and gang membership. GREAT lessons focus on providing life skills to students to help them avoid delinquent behavior and violence to solve problems. In FY 2006, the Department awarded \$15 million to over 140 GREAT sites in 36 states.

* The Department has long supported gang prevention activities such as the National Youth Gang Center, the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Gang Reduction Program.

* In addition, the Department has developed a wealth of resources and community policing solutions to help law enforcement and communities address the problem of gangs. These resources include guides for police on topics such as graffiti, bullying in schools, gun violence among youthful offenders, and witness intimidation; comprehensive gang prevention model programs; quick reference cards for parents in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Hmong; multi-site evaluations of gang programs; innovations documents on network analysis and jail information-gathering; and a Solutions to Address Gang Crime CD-ROM available free to the public containing DOJ anti-gang related resources and tools.

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