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CABLE Gram Volume 3 Issue 1

20 January 2006 CABLE Gram™

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Take care,

Zhi Hamby-Nye, Editor

Henry Ziegler, Associate Editor

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Please forward the *CABLE Gram* to all people you feel will find it useful!

FEDERAL

1. Senator Says Gulf Coast Help Insufficient (AP, 16 Jan 2006)

WASHINGTON - The government has not done enough to help large swaths of the Gulf Coast recover and rebuild after Hurricane Katrina, a key Republican senator said in a push for Congress to retain its focus on delivering aid in the new year. Though lawmakers have approved \$67 billion for Gulf Coast emergency relief and long-term recovery programs, and President Bush has called for an additional \$1.5 billion to strengthen New Orleans levees, hard-hit areas in Mississippi and Louisiana need more federal resources and attention, said Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine. "I don't think the government has done enough," said Collins, who is leading a delegation of senators on Tuesday to Gulfport, Miss., and St. Bernard Parish in Louisiana _ two areas that she said have been overlooked compared to New Orleans. Both areas were nearly obliterated by high wind during the Aug. 29 storm.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.federalnewsradio.com/index.php?nid=78&sid=292763>

2. Specter Skeptical of Domestic Spy Program (AP, 16 Jan 2006)

WASHINGTON - The chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee expressed skepticism Sunday over President Bush's domestic eavesdropping program, joining a chorus of Republicans and Democrats who are questioning its legal justification. Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., who will hold hearings next month on the decision to allow the National Security Agency program without court approval, said he has told Bush administration officials that he believes they are on shaky legal ground. Bush has pointed to a congressional resolution passed after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, that authorized him to use force in the fight against terrorism as allowing him to order the program. The program authorized eavesdropping of international phone calls and e-mails of people deemed a terror risk.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.federalnewsradio.com/index.php?nid=78&sid=326298>

3. Bureaucracy hinders 9/11 commission recommendations (By Shane Harris and Greta Wodele, National Journal, 13 Jan 2006)

It felt like the end of a traveling show. The players looked tired. A bittersweet air hung about them. For Thomas Kean and Lee Hamilton, the chair and vice chair of the 9/11 commission, Monday, Dec. 5, was the end of a long saga, the day they released their final assessment of the nation's security following that fateful morning in September 2001. For the previous 17 months, Kean and Hamilton had picked up where they and their eight co-commissioners had left off when they published the best-selling narrative account of the events preceding 9/11 and the horror that unfolded that day. The commission, formally known as the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, officially closed on August 21, 2004. Then, from an office on Dupont Circle in Washington, Kean, Hamilton, and a tiny staff had run the 9/11 Public Discourse Project, an effort to keep a fire going in the nation's gut to implement the commission's 41 recommendations for improving national security and overhauling U.S. intelligence.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33166&dcn=todaysnews

4. The 9/11 Commission Recommendations: A Post-Mortem (Contributed by Steven Aftergood, Federation of American Scientists, www.fas.org)

The 9/11 Commission could hardly have delivered a more forceful presentation to a more receptive public audience than it did in its best-selling 2004 report. Yet 17 of its 41 recommendations have been largely or completely ignored by the government. Why? The reasons "fall into six categories," according to an assessment in the latest National Journal: "a Congress resistant to institutional change; a bureaucracy that bucks new ideas; lack of money; lack of leadership; special interests that have the ear of Congress or the White House; and, finally, an inability to accurately see how the United States is perceived abroad." See "Miles to Go," by Shane Harris and Greta Wodele, National Journal, January 14, reprinted here as "Bureaucracy hinders 9/11 commission recommendations":

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0106/011306nj1.htm>

5. Groups Sue to Stop Domestic Spying Program (AP, 17 Jan 2006)

NEW YORK - Federal lawsuits were filed Tuesday seeking to halt President Bush's domestic eavesdropping program, calling it an "illegal and unconstitutional program" of electronic eavesdropping on American citizens. The lawsuits accusing Bush of exceeding his constitutional powers were filed in federal court in New York by the Center for Constitutional Rights and in Detroit by the American Civil Liberties Union. The New York suit, filed on behalf of the center and individuals, names Bush, the head of the National Security Agency, and the heads of the other major security agencies, challenging the NSA's surveillance of persons within the United States without judicial approval or statutory authorization.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtop.com/?nid=104&sid=673624>

6. USDA Continues efforts to safeguard the nation's food supply (WebWire, 17 Jan 2006)

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced additional efforts in collaboration with states and private industry to protect the nation's food supply from terrorist threats. "Ensuring the safety of our nation's food supply remains a top priority for President Bush and USDA," said Dr. Richard Raymond, USDA Under Secretary for Food Safety. "We remain steadfast in our commitment to work with our federal, state and private sector partners so that we can keep our agricultural commodities safe." USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) will conduct five critical food defense exercises this year. The first exercise will take place in Alameda, Calif. on Jan. 18 and 19. These exercises are designed to practice reporting a non-routine incident while coordinating with all levels of government, non-governmental agencies and the private sector in an incident command system structure. These exercises will challenge all participants to collaborate more closely and become better prepared to keep the food supply safe.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://webwire.com/ViewPressRel.asp?SESSIONID=&aId=8051>

7. FBI safeguard fails to catch latest alleged spy (AP, 17 Jan 2006)

An Associated Press review finds the FBI needed outside help to catch its latest alleged spy. Court papers and interviews show that the new safeguards after Robert Hanssen's spying was discovered in 2001 didn't work against FBI analyst Leandro Aragoncillo. His lawyers are working with prosecutors on a plea deal to secure his cooperation with investigators. Prosecutors say he's "essentially admitted" to taking classified documents. He's accused of passing intelligence to opposition leaders in the Philippines. But by the government's own account, he was spying in plain sight, without setting off any alarms. Records show he traveled more than a dozen times to the Philippines on personal business since 2000. And records show he carried a debt of at least a-half million dollars on Marine retirement pay and an entry-level FBI job. U.S. Customs officials grew suspicious and tipped off the FBI.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wistv.com/Global/story.asp?S=4373748>

8. Agencies assess money-laundering threat (GovExec.com, By Katherine McIntire Peters, 17 Jan 2006)

The Treasury Department last week released the first ever governmentwide threat assessment of money laundering. The study was produced by an interagency working group that included participants from the Justice, Treasury and Homeland Security departments, as well as the Postal Service and the Drug Enforcement Administration. The assessment is intended to be the first step in developing a threat-based strategic plan to combat the problem. The fact that the report was even released to the public is significant, said Stuart Levey, Treasury's undersecretary for terrorism and financial crimes, at a briefing for reporters. It was unveiled in part to provide private financial institutions with a broader understanding of the problem in the hope of enlisting their support in seeking more effective methods for combating financial crimes.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33155&dcn=e_hsw

9. Roughly 400,000 Children to be Victims of ID Theft (WOWK, 16 Jan 2006)

"I'm not quite sure when he stole my ID but I didn't find it until I was 23 and it was when I applied for car loans and I kept getting turned down and it made absolutely no sense to me why it was happening." Jacque Bland O'Bryant is the managing editor of the State Journal. Her identity was stolen not online, but by a family member. And ... "It wasn't just me -- it was four or 5 others including children. Children that had had their social security numbers taken and complete new identities created for these kids." "You don't think of people losing their identities as kids, you usually think of adults ..."

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://wowktv.com/story.cfm?func=viewstory&storyid=8069>

10. Administration announces new border screening initiatives (GovExec.com, By Chris Strohm, 17 Jan 2006)

The State and Homeland Security departments on Tuesday announced new efforts to transform how people are screened and approved for entering the United States. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice

outlined the initiatives during a news conference in Washington. No new requirements are being placed on people entering the country, a senior State Department official told reporters. "All we're trying to do is Σ make it easier to comply with the requirements that are already on the books," said the official, who asked to remain anonymous.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33186&dcn=e_hsw

11. U.S. bracing for smuggling rings to retaliate (Star-Telegram Washington Bureau, 19 Jan 2006)

WASHINGTON - The U.S. government is bracing for increased violence against Border Patrol agents as Mexican smuggling rings retaliate against a high-profile crackdown by federal law enforcement, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said Wednesday. While declining to elaborate on reports that smugglers may be planning contract-style hits on Border Patrol agents, Chertoff acknowledged "an uptick in violence" against the federal officers after months of intensified enforcement aimed at crushing immigrant- and drug-smuggling rings. "I do think we have to be prepared for the fact that as we press hard on these criminal organizations, some of them will want to fight back," Chertoff told reporters during a media breakfast. But "we want to make it very clear that ... will not cause us to back off."

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.dfw.com/mld/dfw/news/nation/13661300.htm>

12. Campaign Launched to Encourage Illegal Aliens to Fight Terrorism (e-releases, 17 Jan 2006)

DALLAS - Loftus Carlson, editor of <http://www.CleverAmerican.com>, claims that "border-jumping Mexicans could be America's most effective resource in the fight against terrorism." Carlson has launched a campaign to encourage Mexicans crossing the border by whatever means to report "OTMs" (Other-Than-Mexicans) who stream into the country illegally from countries like Syria, Yemen and Iran at the rate of over 50,000 a year. "Every day, thousands of Mexican laborers cross the U.S. border illegally to pursue economic opportunity," writes Carlson. "Common sense tells us that these people are not a terror threat. While it's true that the porosity of our borders benefits both illegal workers and al-Qaeda operatives, that's certainly not your Mexican landscaper's fault." While Carlson hastens to add that "many OTMs entering the country via Mexico simply seek a better life ... Homeland Security intelligence indicates that dangerous terrorists also seek entry via our southern border, aided by such organizations as the notorious MS-13 gang." The basis for Carlson's scheme to recruit illegal aliens is the U.S. State Department's "Rewards for Justice" program (<http://www.rewardsforjustice.net>), which provides generous rewards to informants of any nationality for information about terrorist activity.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.ereleases.com/pr/20060117006.html>

13. Mexican criminals smuggling guns from U.S. (Star-Telegram, 14 Jan 2006)

WASHINGTON - Federal investigators say it's a simple matter of supply and demand. Warring Mexican gangs need weapons and are reaching into the bountiful - and legal - supply just across the border to build up their arsenals. Because of rigid firearms

restrictions in their own country, authorities say, Mexican criminals are increasingly dispatching operatives into sporting goods stores, gun shows and even flea markets in Texas and other states to load up on assault weapons, pistols, shotguns and ammunition. The firearms are then smuggled into Mexico to become implements in the country's drug wars and other criminal activity. "It's extremely widespread," said J.J. Ballesteros, chief of the Corpus Christi office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and one of the agency's leading experts on firearms trafficking in Mexico.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.dfw.com/mld/startelegram/news/state/13629234.htm>

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS

14. CA: Man caught with 2 Chinese nationals charged with smuggling (Signonsandiego News Services, 19 Jan 2006)

SAN DIEGO – A Mexican who tried to sneak two Chinese nationals into the United States at Otay Mesa border crossing will be charged with alien smuggling, federal authorities said today. Federal agents caught 49-year-old Jose Carlos Padilla and the Chinese nationals about 2:15 a.m. Tuesday, according to Angelica De Cima of U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Padilla, a Mexican, tried to enter the United States in a green 1995 GMC Sierra pickup at the Otay Mesa port of entry when officers stopped him, De Cima said.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20060119-1012-smuggle.html>

15. CA: Rightwing group offers students \$100 to spy on professors (The Guardian, 19 Jan 2006)

It is the sort of invitation any poverty-stricken student would find hard to resist. "Do you have a professor who just can't stop talking about President Bush, about the war in Iraq, about the Republican party, or any other ideological issue that has nothing to do with the class subject matter? If you help ... expose the professor, we'll pay you for your work." For full notes, a tape recording and a copy of all teaching materials, students at the University of California Los Angeles are being offered \$100 (£57) - the tape recorder is provided free of charge - by an alumni group.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/usa/story/0,,1689653,00.html>

16. FL: West Palm Beach man convicted of smuggling radioactive material (AP, 18 Jan 2006)

MIAMI - An executive of an import and export company has been convicted of smuggling radioactive material from a Fort Lauderdale airport to the Bahamas, the U.S. Attorney's office said Wednesday. A jury found Harold J. DeGregory Jr., of West Palm Beach, guilty of three counts of illegal transportation of Iridium-192, a hazardous and radioactive material. He was also convicted of two counts of making a materially false statement to the U.S. government, the U.S. Attorney office said in a statement.

DeGregory, president of the Fort Lauderdale-based H&G Import Export company, had made an agreement with the Bahamas Oil Refining Company to transport Iridium-192 to

and from the Bahamas. BORG acquired Iridium-192, which is used for industrial radiography, from a U.S. company that legally shipped it to Fort Lauderdale, the U.S. Attorney's office said.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.bradenton.com/mld/bradenton/news/breaking_news/13656350.htm

17. IL: Suburban Chicago couple indicted for smuggling endangered animal (Chicago Flame, 16 Jan 2006)

A suburban Chicago couple who own a downtown art gallery were indicted Tuesday for allegedly smuggling and selling at least \$250,000 in merchandise made of endangered and protected animals. Glen Joffe and Claudia Ashleigh-Morgan, of Oak Brook, along with their gallery, Primitive Art Works, were indicted on 20 counts, including smuggling merchandise made from protected wildlife, violating the Endangered Species Act and making false statements to U.S. Customs agents. At a news conference Tuesday, prosecutors displayed an array of materials made from endangered animals that the two are accused of smuggling into Chicago from Asia, Africa and South America, including feather headdresses and items made from ivory and sea turtles.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?T2AA52A7C>

18. IL: Bioterrorism drill held in county (The Herald News, 15 Jan 2006)

JOLIET — More than 150 Will County police and fire officials took part Tuesday in a critical bioterrorism preparedness training exercise at the Three Rivers Safety Center. The daylong event, sponsored by the Will County Health Department, was designed to review and discuss the role first responder agencies will play in the event of a bioterrorism attack in Will County. The exercise was the latest in a series of special training events conducted in conjunction with the health department's Will County Bioterrorism Preparedness Plan. "Our proximity to Chicago means that Will County could be an entry point for a potential terrorist attack," said health department Executive Director James Zelko. "We must be prepared for any contingency that could arise in the wake of an attack. One of several strategic benefits of exercises like the one conducted Tuesday is that we have an opportunity to enhance our bioterrorism preparedness while promoting interagency coordination and cooperation."

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/heraldnews/city/4_1_JO15_RESPOND_S1.htm

19. IL: Madigan offers help for identity theft victims (AP, 16 Jan 2006)

SPRINGFIELD - Illinois victims of identity theft will have someone to guide them through the bewildering process of repairing their credit under a plan from Attorney General Lisa Madigan. Madigan plans to devote two employees solely to helping people deal with police and creditors. The service and a toll-free number will start Feb. 6, she told The Associated Press. "Basically, what we'll provide for you is a road map," Madigan said. "When necessary, we'll actually reach out to your creditors and others to make sure that you're being responded to in an appropriate and timely manner."

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.suntimes.com/output/news/idtheft16.html>

20. MA: 2 Boston women arrested for gun smuggling (Boston Globe, 18 Jan 2006)

Two Boston women have been arrested on charges of trying to smuggle guns into Massachusetts from Alabama, police and federal authorities said this afternoon. Niya Mills, 23, of Roxbury, and Sukia Omere, 20, of Boston, were charged with one count of unlawful transportation of firearms into the state. At a news conference, police said the pair bought six firearms in Bessemer, Ala., with the intent to sell them in Boston. US Attorney Michael J. Sullivan said the defendants hoped to sell the weapons for \$800 a piece. Investigators said they are still trying to determine whether the two suspects were working alone or were part of a larger gun-running ring.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?I2E312F7C>

21. MI: U.S. agents arrest Windsor trucker (AP, 17 Jan 2006)

DETROIT - U.S. authorities say they have arrested a Canadian truck driver after finding nine illegal immigrants from China hiding in the back of his tractor-trailer. "It was another one of those cases where the officer got suspicious while asking the driver routine questions," said Ronald Smith, a spokesman for U.S. Customs and Border Protection "Agents became suspicious because the driver was acting nervous," the Detroit Free Press reported Tuesday.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://cnews.canoe.ca/CNEWS/Canada/2006/01/17/1398282-ap.html>

22. NY: Progress in updating security at the Lincoln County-Brookhaven Government Complex has been slow, but a county official said significant improvements should be made in 2006 (Daily Leader, 12 Jan 2006)

"We haven't moved much forward on that," said County Administrator David Fields about progress so far. "Most of the changes have been more procedural than physical." The county administrator said supervisors are hoping grants applied for through the Department of Homeland Security will fund some of the physical improvements. One obvious improvement that has been implemented is the relocation of the metal detector to the courtroom door, he said. The detector is manned when court is in session. The problem with making physical changes, Fields said, is drawing a line between security and accessibility.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?W28512C7C>

23. NY: Stole From Pensioners: 3 Arrested in TRS Identity Theft Scam (The Chief, Week of 20 Jan 2006)

The Manhattan District Attorney's Office is working with the Police Department's Identity Theft Unit to untangle an attempt at identity theft that originated within the New York City Teachers' Retirement System. Law-enforcement officials said Jan. 11 that they were investigating what they believed to be a multi-person operation that stole TRS pensioners' personal information, such as Social Security and bank account numbers, as well as birth dates and secure passwords.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.thechief-leader.com/news/2006/0120/News/003.html>

24. ND: Identity theft a growing problem in North Dakota (KXMA, 16 Jan 2006)

Officials say identity theft cases filed by prosecutors have grown in each of the past three years. Consumer Protection Director Parrell Grossman says the problem is probably bigger. He believes only a small amount of identity thefts are reported. State residents filed 49 identity theft complaints with the attorney general's office in 2005. That was the first year officials began officially tracking the crime. He says the majority of victims have their information stolen by thieves who obtain the data electronically. Prosecutors can file felony charges when they suspect someone has stolen another person's identity. Grossman says prosecutors filed 28 charges in 2003. The number jumped to 47 in 2004 -- and 51 in last year.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.kxma.com/news/local.asp?ID=6359>

25. RI: At T.F. Green, security screeners watch behavior to detect terrorists (Providence Journal, 17 Jan 2006)

WARWICK - Since 2004, security officials at T.F. Green Airport have tried to spot dangerous passengers by a pulsing cartoid artery, how much they sweat, blink, and behave in ways that might indicate an anxiety that stems from something more sinister than a fear of flying. The federal Transportation Security Administration is looking for passengers who have their stress hormones up and running because they intend to attack the air transportation system. Green was among the first three airports in the nation to test "behavior detection techniques" -- a list of "tells" that federal officials think may help them to identify terrorists.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.projo.com/news/content/projo_20060117_w17spot.d9ea855.html

26. TX: Opening statements delayed in smuggling deaths case (AP, 19 Jan 2006)

HOUSTON - Opening statements in the third trial connected to the nation's deadliest human smuggling attempt were delayed Thursday because one juror was ill and another had a sick child. The proceedings had been set for Thursday for Victor Sanchez Rodriguez; his wife, Emma Sapata Rodriguez; and Rosa Sarrata Gonzalez, Sapata's half-sister. They face charges of harboring and transporting illegal immigrants in the 2003 smuggling attempt that left 19 people dead. If convicted, they could face life in prison. But U.S. District Judge Vanessa Gilmore said proceedings would have to be delayed at least a day.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?S1D322F7C>

27. VA: Part-time screeners at RIC? (Richmond Times Dispatch, 18 Jan 2006)

Katie Williams and Jim Conway come from the opposite ends of the career spectrum, but both are intrigued by a planned pilot program to hire part-time security screeners at Richmond International Airport. "It's mainly having a part-time government job," said Williams, 21, a junior at Virginia Commonwealth University majoring in radiation therapy. "I could go to school and still do it." Conway, 62, is retired from his job with

Henrico County's public utilities. "My kids are all grown, and I can fit in any hours," he said.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?V2B334F7C>

28. WA: State, B.C. join forces to fight passport proposal (Seattle Post-Intelligencer Reporter, 17 Jan 2006)

Gov. Christine Gregoire has asked President Bush to scrap plans making a passport or similar documents mandatory for travelers coming into the United States from Canada. The requirement would be a hindrance, Gregoire believes, to Canadians coming into the United States -- and to Washington residents and other U.S. citizens looking to go north for a day or a weekend. With the number of travelers into Washington from Canada rebounding after a decade of decline, and the 2010 Winter Olympics destined for Vancouver, B.C., Gregoire and her counterpart in British Columbia are worried the federal plans from the U.S. government will torpedo cross-border tourism.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/local/255948_border17.html

KEY PEOPLE

29. Homeland Security chief financial officer to step down (GovExec.com, By Amelia Gruber, 19 Jan 2006)

The Homeland Security Department's top financial executive announced Tuesday that he will leave this spring. In a resignation letter to President Bush, Andrew Maner, who took over as the department's chief financial officer in early 2004, said he will step down on March 3. Bush announced that he intends to nominate David Norquist, deputy undersecretary of Defense for budget and appropriations affairs, to replace Maner. "This decision has been the most difficult in my career, but it is one that is best for my family and for me at this time," Maner wrote in a message to his staff. He added that he had delayed his departure "several times at the request of DHS leadership."

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33198&dcn=e_gvet

30. Tamara Miller Named TSA's Special Counselor (PRNewswire, 17 Jan 2006)

WASHINGTON - Tamara L. Miller, who grew up in Muskegon Heights, Mich., was recently appointed as Special Counselor of the federal Transportation Security Administration (TSA) by Assistant Secretary Kip Hawley. In that position, Miller manages several offices responsible for the timely sharing, coordination, and protection of information related to transportation security, and for ensuring that employees and the traveling public are treated in a fair and lawful manner. Those offices include Civil Rights and Liberties, the Ombudsman, Freedom of Information Act, Privacy, Sensitive Security Information, the Executive Secretariat, and Transportation Security Redress, which provides an appeals process for air travelers and other individuals identified as a threat or a potential threat to transportation security. TSA is part of the Department of Homeland Security.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?Z39512C7C>

31. TSA Names David Kane Federal Security Director for Indianapolis International Airport (PRNewswire, 19 Jan 2006)

WASHINGTON - The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) announced today that David W. Kane has been named Federal Security Director (FSD) for Indianapolis International Airport. Mr. Kane assumed the duties of acting director in August 2005, following the tragic death of the airport's first Federal Security Director, Dick M. Suekawa. "It is hard to lose one of your own and we grieve the passing of Dick Suekawa," said TSA Central Area Director Leopoldo Vasquez. "David Kane, Dick's successor, possesses the requisite leadership skills and is truly committed and prepared to accomplish the TSA mission in Indianapolis. We are proud to have him on board." A prior law enforcement investigator in Indiana, Kane joined the Federal Aviation Administration as a Federal Air Marshal in 1985. He held several positions with the Federal Aviation Administration until he was reassigned to the TSA. Since joining TSA in 2002, Kane has held the Assistant FSD position at Indianapolis International Airport, overseeing passenger and baggage screening, regulatory inspection and business operations.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?G59623F7C>

GANG ACTIVITY

32. CA: Rise in gang violence takes toll on Oakland (The Argus, 19 Jan 2006)

OAKLAND - Miguel proudly wears his tattoos signifying his undying allegiance to the Norteños street gang. He boasts of the countless bullets he has dodged, the string of killings he has witnessed and the many funerals he has attended. But underneath the red gang colors he sometimes wears and without the protection from the gang he calls his "family," the 16-year-old admits to his fear of dying. "You never know what can happen when people are always riding and walking around," says Miguel. "I won't go into some areas because I know that anyone can die at any time." Authorities say in the last few years gang violence - especially among Hispanics - has dramatically increased in Oakland. So far this year, two out of three of Oakland's homicides have been linked to gang activity.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.insidebayarea.com/argus/localnews/ci_3413023

33. CT: Mobster embarrassed after Justice Department releases secret tapes (AP, 13 Jan 2006)

NEW HAVEN, Conn. - An elderly Mafioso who was caught on tape discussing the Gambino crime family hierarchy asked a federal judge to dismiss his racketeering case this week, saying prosecutors unfairly embarrassed him by making his incriminating conversations public. Victor Riccitelli, 72, broke the mob's honor code in October, admitting his Mafia membership and pleading guilty to racketeering rather than have the FBI's tapes played in court. Prosecutors surprised Riccitelli in December, however, when they included details of his conversations in a memo placed in the public court file.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?K5A525C7C>

34. IL: Fugitive hid in Chicago area, FBI says (Chicago Tribune, 14 Jan 2006)

CHICAGO - With a bushy, white beard, dark bags under his eyes and wild, long hair, Joey "The Clown" Lombardo looked little like the feared reputed mob boss who led investigators on a nine-month international manhunt. Lombardo's time on the lam ended about 8:10 p.m. Friday on a residential street in Elmwood Park, Ill., not far from his longtime home in Chicago's West Town neighborhood. "He did not resist, but he was not cooperative," Robert D. Grant, special agent in charge of the Chicago FBI office said Saturday at a news conference. "He was a passive individual that seemed to be stunned that he had been found. ... The agents had to approach the car, open the door, and assist him to get out."

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/mld/ledgerenquirer/news/nation/13628571.htm>

35. MD: Minutemen to recruit monitors (Washington Times, 19 Jan 2006)

The Minutemen, an illegal-immigration watchdog group, will begin recruiting members in Montgomery County next month to monitor employers hiring aliens at day-laborer sites. Montgomery County's Minutemen chapter primarily will target informal day-laborer sites, but also will videotape activities at formal, taxpayer-funded centers in Wheaton and Silver Spring, said chapter organizer Chuck Floyd, a resident of Kensington. "They're using taxpayer money to fund these day-laborer centers, and it's illegal for them to do that, and it's a waste of money," said Mr. Floyd, a Republican who lost a bid to unseat Rep. Chris Van Hollen, a Democrat, in 2004.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://washingtontimes.com/metro/20060118-095013-2249r.htm>

36. NV: County looks to address growing graffiti problem (Mohave Daily News, 16 Jan 2006)

KINGMAN - A Mohave County supervisor wants to crack down on the growing problem of graffiti in the county. Dist. 1 Supervisor Pete Byers said driving around North Kingman, he has seen an increasing amount of graffiti on buildings, culverts and bridges, especially around the Mohave Wash project. In recent months, Byers have noticed an increase in graffiti that has spilled out of the city and into the county areas. He wants to discuss the subject at an upcoming Board meeting. Most of the graffiti is gang related and even includes some graffiti reportedly made by Mara Salvatrucha or MS-13, the Central American gang active in this country, Byers said.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.mohavedailynews.com/articles/2006/01/17/news/local/local2.txt>

37. NY: Upstate man admits role in online identity theft ring (AP, 18 Jan 2006)

ALBANY, N.Y. - An Albany man has admitted participating in an identity theft ring that investigators called one of the largest online centers for trafficking in stolen identity information and credit cards. Paul A. Mendel Jr., 21, pleaded guilty Wednesday in federal court to one count of conspiracy to transfer false identification documents, according to

U.S. Attorney Glenn Suddaby. He was released pending sentencing May 10, where he could face up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Mendel admitted in October 2003 he joined Shadowcrew, an organization with about 4,000 members that facilitated identity theft through the New Jersey-based Web site www.shadowcrew.com. The group dealt with at least 1.5 million stolen credit card numbers and caused more than \$4 million in losses, according to federal prosecutors.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?O55732F7C>

38. NC: Durham may get 'gang czar' (News Observer, 14 Jan 2006)

When members of the Durham Police Department's gang unit showed up at Riverside High School recently, the county Sheriff's Office, which has a resource officer stationed there, was as surprised as anyone. "We hadn't heard anything, and they just showed up, and we didn't know why," Wes Crabtree, chief sheriff's deputy, told county commissioners this week. As it turned out, there was no fight or other problem for the gang unit to deal with, but Crabtree and commissioners are now pointing to the incident as an example of communication problems and other inefficiencies between the two law enforcement agencies. Now, commissioners are considering the creation of a position -- one term mentioned is "gang czar" -- to act as a point person working with city and county police and other agencies that deal with gangs and teen issues. That person may lead a new committee of city and county police and school officials on preventing teen violence and act as a conduit through which information can flow between agencies.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.newsobserver.com/102/story/388383.html>

39. TX: Ortiz: Government passing responsibilities to local sheriffs (The Brownsville Herald, 14 Jan 2006)

If border law enforcement isn't broken, it's about to be, U.S. Rep. Solomon Ortiz told the Rio Grande Valley Law Enforcement Chiefs Association Friday. The 23-year congressman and former Nueces County sheriff spoke to the group during its monthly meeting at the University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College. Ortiz, D-Corpus Christi, began his law enforcement career in 1964 with his election as constable in Robstown. "The landscape has changed drastically in the last few years," he said, describing how police in the Valley now face different problems than those he saw as Nueces County sheriff and were expected to fight organized crime, the drug war and illegal immigration, using local resources. "What I see, and it's very disturbing, is that the federal government is passing on its responsibilities to you, and I don't think that's fair," he said. Calling the Border Patrol "completely overwhelmed" by the lack of space for its detainees - some 19,000 beds nationwide - a growing number of other-than-Mexicans, or OTMs, and inadequate staffing, Ortiz said the agency sometimes knew who it had caught, sometimes not.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.brownsvilleherald.com/ts_more.php?id=68852_0_10_0_C

40. TX: Increased gang activity part of problem (Houston Chronicle, 15 Jan 2006)

The crudely scrawled letters "LTC" appear, ghostlike, beneath a thin layer of brown paint on the apartment building where Eduardo Hernandez was killed Dec. 6. The 16-year-old Hastings High School freshman was shot inside a unit of the Winfield Park Apartments at 7700 Corporate in what investigators say was a gang-retaliation slaying. Hernandez's death was just one of 10 homicides with known links to "LTC," also known as La Tercera Crips, Houston police say.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/3587740.html>

41. VA: Gang experts advise: Stay alert (newsleader.com, 18 Jan 2006)

STAUNTON — In the five-stage model of grief, psychologists say, the denial stage eventually gives way to anger. For some of the almost 100 concerned residents who packed into a meeting room Tuesday at the Staunton Public Library, the community's tacit denial of gang activity in the city is moving into anger — and action. During a meeting organized by the Staunton Democratic Committee and Commonwealth's Attorney Ray Robertson, audience members asked experts how many gang members operated in local schools and how they could be identified. Mostly, they wanted to know what could be done to push children away from gangs.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?T2A623F7C>

42. Guatemala: Wave of killings raises specter of death squads (By Ginger Thompson, The New York Times, 17 Jan 2006)

GUATEMALA CITY · There were 52 bodies at the morgue on a recent Monday morning; 52 new chances for Guadalupe Diaz to find her son, Mario Toscano. He was no angel, Diaz said of her son. Toscano, 20, known around the neighborhood as Chespy, was the leader of the violent Mara 18 street gang. His mother long feared he might wind up dead, but not disappeared. Toscano has been missing since Aug. 27, Diaz said, when he was abducted at a convenience store by three gunmen. Diaz said that when neighbors tried to intervene, the gunmen pulled out their weapons, identified themselves as police officers, warned the neighbors to move back, then loaded Toscano into an unmarked car and drove away.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?X2B513C7C>

43. Netherlands: Detective 'tipped off Hells Angels' about massive raid (Expatica, 17 Jan 2006)

AMSTERDAM - A detective, 49, was arrested on the orders of justice officials in Amsterdam on Monday. The unnamed officer, who works for the *Nationale Recherche* (national detective service), is suspected of leaking confidential information to third parties. He has been suspended. Two other men, aged 49 and 51, were also arrested as part of the same investigation, a spokesperson for the Public Prosecutor's Office (OM) said on Tuesday. Detectives are trying to establish what role, of any, these men had in "illegal police contacts". The *Nationale Recherche* deals with investigations into serious crime and terrorism.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?E2C552C7C>

44. Israel: Police chief warns of spreading juvenile, organized crime (Jerusalem Post, 16 Jan 2006)

While the number of crimes reported in 2005 dropped by five percent, Israel Police Insp.- Gen. Moshe Karadi warned on Monday that juvenile crime - if not eradicated - could prove to be a "country-wide plague." According to statistics Karadi presented reporters during a press conference at the National Police Headquarters in Jerusalem, close to 493,000 reported crimes were dealt with by police during the past year in comparison to some 520,000 files opened in 2004. While the statistics showed a positive decline in the level of crime, Karadi admitted that criminal organizations were continuing to wreak havoc across the country and were beginning to resemble Palestinian terror groups.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?C3D525C7C>

NARCO TRAFFICKING

45. AZ: Pot is a smuggling pawn (The Daily Journal, 19 Jan 2006)

TUCSON, Ariz. – The door to the warehouse near the Tucson airport swings open and a musty-mint odor is instantly recognizable: It's pot. Lots and lots of pot. Inside, neatly stacked bales of marijuana stand like faceless chess pieces – the evidence from a game of extremes played every day along the nearby Arizona-Mexico border. Anthony Coulson, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency official in charge there, says that as much as 20 percent of the marijuana brought into Arizona last year was discovered in one location: the Tohono O'odham reservation, where abject poverty and the opportunity for a fast buck torment the American Indian nation.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.thedailyjournalonline.com/article.asp?ArticleId=217766&CategoryId=14091>

46. AZ: Ariz. Rep. Renzi: Mexican Soldiers Smuggling Drugs into U.S. (NewsMax, 19 Jan 2006)

An Arizona congressman has demanded that the U.S. State Department take "immediate diplomatic action" to stop Mexican military incursions into the United States. Republican Rep. Rick Renzi said U.S. Border Patrol agents face a continuing threat from rogue Mexican soldiers protecting drug smugglers. In a letter to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Renzi charged that operations by these soldiers constitute "narco-terrorism in its purest form." Renzi said: "Our borders are under attack by sophisticated organizations that have no qualms about firing on our Border Patrol units. As we get tougher and more committed, so do the organizations committed to smuggling death and terror across our borders."

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.newsmax.com/archives/ic/2006/1/19/133317.shtml>

47. MO: 30 People Indicted in Area Drug Smuggling Ring, Including Berkeley Police Employee (KSDK, 19 Jan 2006)

The sweep took down suspected stash houses in Wellston, the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County. The cocaine pipeline stretched from Juarez, Mexico, through Houston, TX and into the St. Louis area. The smuggled illegal drugs went greyhound, and then were distributed onto local streets. At the top of the alleged chain was 36-year-old Byron Jackson, a.k.a. "B," and 31 year-old LaFranze Wilson a.k.a. "Big Cat." Wilson, who was convicted of possession of a controlled substance, was also arrested and charged 12 years ago with hindering prosecution in the Cassidy Senter murder investigation.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.ksdk.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=90857

48. NY: Music Exec Convicted for Smuggling Marijuana (1010, 18 Jan 2006)

The chief executive of a reggae music production company was convicted of drug conspiracy for smuggling one ton of marijuana into New York City each week for years. Horatio Hamilton is president of Lords of Yard Incorporated. U.S. Attorney Michael Garcia says Hamilton faces 20 years in prison after being convicted in Manhattan federal court Tuesday. Garcia says Hamilton was arrested in 1999 with nearly two tons of marijuana at Los Angeles International Airport. He jumped bail and was arrested again last year.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://1010wins.com/topstories/local_story_018081855.html

49. NY: Four arrested in Hillcrest drug raid (The Journal News, 14 Jan 2006)

HILLCREST - Ramapo police arrested four men on drug charges yesterday after seizing cocaine and packaging materials during an early-morning raid on a dilapidated house on North Main Street. The four, who police said were linked to a violent street gang, were arrested when a cadre of officers broke down the door at 686 N. Main St. at 6:05 a.m. They had a warrant based on an eight-month drug investigation by Ramapo and Spring Valley police. Inside the house, the officers said, they found cocaine, marijuana, drug packaging materials and more than \$2,000. The police also said they found photos and other materials linking the men to MS-13, a street gang that started in El Salvador.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?K1E524C7C>

50. TX: Drug Bust Nets Identity Theft Operation (KXAN, 18 Jan 2006)

San Marcos police busted an identity theft operation and are looking for possible victims. The case broke with an anonymous tip to Child Protective Services, who asked police to escort caseworkers on an investigation in San Marcos. Officers entered a home on Maple Street. Inside they found methamphetamine, needles and a pile of fake checks and ID cards. Hays County Narcotics Task Force officers arrested 35-year-old Charles Blake Orr and 26-year-old Christina Diane Hughes on charges of felony forgery and drug possession. "It's pretty sophisticated in that they went to all the extremes to get everything they needed to print very authentic-looking checks," Sgt. Chase Stapp with the Hays County Narcotics Task Force said. "We think at least we have over a dozen victims of the identity theft and probably as many or more victims in the form of stores where they've been shopping with these bad checks."

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.kxan.com/Global/story.asp?S=4380250&nav=0s3d>

51. Canada: PROJECT HUSKY - 27 Charged in relation to Organized Crime, Conspiracy and Drug Trafficking (CNW, 19 Jan 2006)

THUNDER BAY, ON - Yesterday, January 18th 2006, officers from the joint forces investigation, Project HUSKY, charged 27 people for their connection in drug trafficking and organized crime in Northern Ontario and other locales in Quebec and Alberta. Project HUSKY, a two-year, covert investigation focusing on specific Hells Angels motorcycle gang members and associates, began in January 2004. During the investigation, a number of drug seizures, including cocaine, marijuana, Ecstasy, Percocets, and Oxycontin, were made. The Controlled Substances have a retail street value exceeding 2.3 million dollars. The charged individuals include five full members and one official hang-around of the Hells Angels motorcycle gang. They have been charged with offences in relation to drug trafficking, violence and operating as a criminal organization. In addition, 21 associates of the Hells Angels were also charged with various offences.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/January2006/19/c4028.html>

52. Brazil to bolster border with Colombia (ISN Security Watch, 19 Jan 2006)

Brazil will send an additional 3,500 troops to the border its shares with Colombia, Interior Ministry officials said. General Villas Boas said the reinforcements would help existing troops in the region combat narco trafficking along the porous Amazon border. "Brazil does not have border problems," said Boas. "But there are problems with narco traffic in the region. Our concern with the FARC (The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) is really a narco traffic problem." The left-wing FARC has been battling the Colombian government for more than 40 years and uses profits from drug trafficking to fund its fight.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.isn.ethz.ch/news/sw/details.cfm?ID=14447>

53. Pakistan, Iran agree to control human, drug smuggling (IRNA, 18 Jan 2006)

An eight-member Iranian delegation headed by Iranian Deputy Minister for Interior Ali Asghar Ahmedi met Pakistan's Interior Minister Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao here Tuesday and exchanged views on their countries' bilateral relations. Federal Secretary of the Interior Syed Kamal Shah and Iranian Ambassador Mohammad Teherian Fard were also present in the meeting, an official statement said. The two sides exchanged views on security measures at the Pakistan-Iran border aimed at controlling human and drug smuggling. They also discussed matters regarding their countries' joint efforts and cooperation of border forces in the fight against drug and human smuggling.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.irna.ir/en/news/view/menu-234/0601182653092048.htm>

54. China: Shenzhen police bust drug smuggling group (Xinhuanet, 15 Jan 2006)

SHENZHEN - Police in south China's Shenzhen broke up a drug ring suspected of transporting drugs from southeast Asian countries into China, according to sources with the local customs. Police arrested 12 members of the group and seized 12.5 kg of drugs

valued at 300,000 yuan (37,000 U.S. dollars), said an official with the smuggling control bureau under the Shenzhen Customs. A Hong Kong resident, surnamed Lee but nicknamed "Feizai," was caught with 1.9 kg of ketamine in his backpack when he was entering Shenzhen via the Huanggang Port midnight on Dec. 17, last year.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2006-01/15/content_4054338.htm

55. Taiwan: Two men nabbed for smuggling 1.6 kg of marijuana from Canada using Federal Express (China Post, 16 Jan 2006)

The Criminal Investigation Bureau (CIB) said yesterday that they had arrested two men suspected of importing 1.6 kilograms of marijuana via airmail from Canada. The two men, surnamed Wang and Tsai, have already been sent to the Taipei District Prosecutors' Office for further interrogation. They told the police that they ordered the marijuana from a Canadian man and used Federal Express to import it. Officials at the international division of the CIB noted that the Hong Kong office of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration was informed Oct. 21 that the U.S. customs, while checking the items in a Federal Express station in Memphis, Tennessee Oct. 18, found a parcel bound for Taiwan suspicious in terms of its weight and thickness.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.chinapost.com.tw/i_latestdetail.asp?id=34465

56. New Zealand woman remanded in Sydney over cocaine pellet smuggling (New Zealand Herald, 19 Jan 2006)

SYDNEY - A New Zealand woman was remanded in custody today by a Sydney court accused of importing cocaine pellets in her underwear. Customs officers at Sydney International Airport became suspicious of a 34-year-old woman during a baggage examination after she arrived on a flight from Bangkok on January 15. Pellets of cocaine were allegedly found in the woman's underwear and she was later taken for a medical examination after Australian Federal Police (AFP) officers became suspicious she was also concealing the drug internally. The woman, who lives in Australia, was charged with attempting to import cocaine and appeared in Central Local Court today. She entered no plea. She allegedly had 91 pellets in her possession, but it could not be confirmed just how many she was carrying internally.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/section/story.cfm?c_id=2&ObjectID=10364451

CYBERTHREAT & THEFT

57. Online attacks common for U.S. firms, FBI says (Reuters, 19 Jan 2006)

WASHINGTON - Nearly nine out of 10 U.S. businesses suffered from a computer virus, spyware or other online attack in 2004 or 2005 despite widespread use of security software, according to an FBI survey released Thursday. Those attacks inflicted average damages of \$24,000 on businesses and other institutions even as antivirus software security tools have become standard, the survey found.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/10927897/>

58. Feds Seek Google Records in Porn Probe (AP, 19 Jan 2006)

SAN JOSE, Calif. - The Bush administration, seeking to revive an online pornography law struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court, has subpoenaed Google Inc. for details on what its users have been looking for through its popular search engine. Google has refused to comply with the subpoena, issued last year, for a broad range of material from its databases, including a request for 1 million random Web addresses and records of all Google searches from any one-week period, lawyers for the U.S. Justice Department said in papers filed Wednesday in federal court in San Jose. Privacy advocates have been increasingly scrutinizing Google's practices as the company expands its offerings to include e-mail, driving directions, photo-sharing, instant messaging and Web journals.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://apnews.myway.com/article/20060119/D8F81BBO3.html>

59. GSA shuts down insecure contracting Web site (GovExec.com, By David Perera, 17 Jan 2006)

The General Services Administration on Wednesday shut down a Web site for electronic submission of contractor bids because information on the site was not secure. A security consultant hoping to join GSA's general schedule of pre-approved vendors discovered the security loopholes Dec. 22. But the agency did not disable the site, called eOffer, until Jan. 18. A message on the site says it is "down for maintenance." The agency is investigating whether any procurement fraud occurred. Aaron Greenspan, president of Dallas-based Think Computer, said he discovered that after legitimately logging on to the site, he could access proprietary bidding documents from other companies. The system also permitted users to adopt the identity of any company with a Dun & Bradstreet identifying number, giving any user the ability to create fraudulent bids or to modify existing ones.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33173&dcn=e_gvet

60. LA: Tech crimes center to open (The Advocate, 16 Jan 2006)

Identity thieves, child pornographers, hackers, fraudsters and other cyber criminals have a new foe in town: a Cybercrimes Command Center. The FBI is establishing the command center on the LSU campus, where it will be home to a task force of federal agents, city and parish detectives and forensic examiners who investigate computer-related crime. It also will house a laboratory capable of processing computer evidence for law-enforcement agencies throughout the region. The FBI plans to spend \$300,000 to renovate and equip the former Wetlands Biogeochemistry Laboratory near South Campus Drive. The 5,000-square-foot facility is expected to open sometime this fall.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.2theadvocate.com/news/2205037.html>

61. WA: New computer forensics lab cracks down on identity theft (The News Tribune, 17 Jan 2006)

Pierce County is attacking identity theft with new technology and vigor that could warn potential victims sooner and lock up crooks longer. Investigators from the prosecutor's

office and sheriff's department have opened a computer forensics lab that allows them to dig deeper into the hardware and software. Pierce County law enforcement officers seize as part of identity theft cases. Officials anticipate the two new computers that are the cornerstones of the lab will expose the breadth of the burgeoning crime, which can destroy a person's credit and give them years of grief in trying to fix.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/crime/story/5462983p-4929726c.html>

62. Phishing Fraudsters Prey on Identity Theft Fears (Consumer Affairs, 13 Jan 2005)

Scam artists are now trying to cash in on the national paranoia over identity theft by luring victims with a phony warning that they may already be the victims of identity theft, according to the New York State Consumer Protection Board (CPB). The latest example of this new ruse is a "phishing" email, claiming to be from Chase Bank. This phony email warns Chase customers that someone tried to access their bank account from a "foreign" Internet address.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.consumeraffairs.com/news04/2006/01/cpb_phishing.html

TECHNOLOGY

63. Nuclear detection office starts new round of domestic tests (By Joe Fiorill, Global Security Newswire, 17 Jan 2006)

The Domestic Nuclear Detection Office this month is conducting its second major series of equipment tests, examining the performance of portable devices in detecting radiation sources ranging from common industrial materials to plutonium. After testing fixed portal-type monitors in October, the Homeland Security Department office has started a monthlong series of tests on existing and "next-generation" portable detectors. In particular, the office is trying to learn about the devices' range and their ability to identify various threats. "A critical component of the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office's program is high-fidelity testing and evaluation using test objects and configurations representative of actual threats," office Director Vayl Oxford said in a release.

"Characterization of detection systems will provide for more-educated acquisition and deployment decisions."

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33158&dcn=e_hsw

64. TSA awards contract to keep technology services program going (GovExec.com, By Chris Strohm, 17 Jan 2006)

The Transportation Security Administration has awarded a contract worth up to \$750 million to keep a key technology services program going. TSA announced on Jan. 3 that it was awarding the contract to Unisys Corp. for the Information Technology Managed Services program, which links the agency's headquarters, operations center and staff at airports across the country through a high-speed computer network. Unisys originally was contracted to manage the program in August 2002. That contract was expected to

reach its cost ceiling of \$1 billion this month, however, prompting TSA to award a new contract to the company.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33169&dcn=e_gvet

65. DHS chief eyes ID cards with biometric data (By Michael Martinez, CongressDaily, 19 Jan 2006)

Homeland Security Secretary Chertoff said today he intends to spend money to develop technology that will allow identification cards to serve several purposes, but stopped short of advocating a national identification card. Chertoff told reporters at a media briefing hosted by the King Publishing Group that he believes it is critical to develop a technological platform for ID cards that is efficient and versatile. He said the department ought to be working toward the creation of a single, secure card embedded with biometric information and capable of working across jurisdictions. In May 2005, President Bush signed into law a bill that established national standards for driver's licenses. States must meet the standards by 2008.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33197&dcn=e_gvet

RESOURCES

66. Stephen Cambone On Dod Facility Security (Contributed by Steven Aftergood, Federation of American Scientists, www.fas.org)

Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence Stephen A. Cambone has issued a new Department of Defense Instruction on the subject of DoD facility security. "The authority of a DoD commander to take reasonably necessary and lawful measures to maintain law and order and to protect installation personnel and property ... shall not be exercised in an arbitrary, unpredictable or discriminatory manner." See DoD Instruction 5200.08, "Security of DoD Installations and Resources," December 10, 2005:

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.fas.org/irp/doddir/dod/i5200_08.pdf

67. Money Laundering Threat Assessment Released by Feds (Jim Kouri, The Conservative Voice, 13 Jan 2006)

The United States government released the inter-agency Money Laundering Threat Assessment (MLTA), the first government-wide analysis of its kind, which investigates money laundering vulnerabilities across a spectrum of techniques used by criminals. "Before you can effectively treat a problem, you must first have an accurate diagnosis. The Money Laundering Threat Assessment integrates information contributed by sixteen government agencies, as well as vital Bank Secrecy Act data provided to Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network to evaluate the range of current and emerging U.S. money laundering threats," said Stuart Levey, Treasury's Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence. Sixteen U.S. bureaus, offices and agencies collaborated on the MLTA from the Departments of Treasury, Justice, Homeland Security, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the United States Postal Service.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.theconservativevoice.com/articles/article.html?id=11514>

68. CRS On Warrantless Surveillance (Contributed by Steven Aftergood, Federation of American Scientists, www.fas.org)

The Congressional Research Service has prepared a detailed evaluation of Bush Administration legal claims regarding Presidential authority to conduct warrantless electronic surveillance within the United States. The CRS authors sift through each of the statutory, constitutional and other arguments that have been presented in defense of the reported NSA surveillance activity, and ultimately find them wanting. A final determination on the matter is impossible, they note, "without an understanding of the specific facts involved and the nature of the President's authorization, which are for the most part classified." In the end, however, "the Administration's legal justification, as presented in the [December 22, 2005] summary analysis from the Office of Legislative Affairs, does not seem to be as well-grounded as the tenor of that letter suggests," they cautiously conclude. See "Presidential Authority to Conduct Warrantless Electronic Surveillance to Gather Foreign Intelligence Information," Congressional Research Service, January 5, 2006:

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/intel/m010506.pdf>

69. Information Sharing Policy Faulted (Contributed by Steven Aftergood, Federation of American Scientists, www.fas.org)

Government initiatives to promote information sharing among and between federal and state agencies have failed to achieve their objectives, a new congressional staff report finds. "Despite numerous directives, exhortations, and invitations to do so, federal policymakers have failed to develop uniform standards for converting classified intelligence into an unclassified or 'less classified' format that can be disseminated rapidly to appropriate state, local, and tribal authorities to thwart terrorist attacks," the report says. The reports recounts in unblinking detail each new announcement of a bold innovation in information sharing policy, and its subsequent failure. "This distressing lack of leadership has persisted for more than four years." The authors propose a law enforcement-driven approach to information sharing based on a model adopted in the United Kingdom. The report was prepared by Democratic staff for Rep. Bennie G. Thompson, ranking member of the House Committee on Homeland Security. See "Beyond Connecting the Dots: A VITAL Framework for Sharing Law Enforcement Intelligence Information," House Committee on Homeland Security Democratic Staff Report, December 28, 2005:

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.fas.org/irp/congress/2005_rpt/vital.pdf

FULL REPORTS

70. United States To Use Better Technology for Security, Hospitality (By Charlene Porter, Washington File Staff Writer, 17 Jan 2006)

Washington – Two top U.S. officials January 17 presented a broad strategy for ensuring security at the nation’s borders and at the same time welcoming travelers, students and businesspeople into the United States.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff brought together an audience of business people, educators and other interested parties to explain a three-part strategy designed to maintain the right balance between strong security and smooth travel in the information age.

“We seek to use new information technology to renew America’s welcome,” said Rice, “making it as easy as possible for foreign visitors to travel to the United States and to do so securely and safely.” (See related [fact sheet](#).)

Creating more sophisticated travel documents and conducting smarter border screening are two other major elements of the plan announced at U.S. State Department headquarters in Washington.

The two agencies are working to develop the “model airport,” to institute new procedures for smoothly ushering foreign visitors into the country. Two pilot efforts will begin this year in Houston, Texas, and at Virginia’s Dulles Airport, outside Washington.

Foreign travelers take their first steps toward the United States with the visa application process in their own countries, and Rice said steps are being taken to facilitate that process as well. In 2006 an experiment will begin in which State Department consular officers will conduct required interviews with visa applicants using digital videoconferencing technology to save the applicant a trip to the consulate or embassy.

“If we can do this successfully,” Rice said, “this process might make life dramatically easier for foreign citizens who must travel great distances to be interviewed in person.”

SECURE BORDERS, OPEN DOORS IN THE INFORMATION AGE

The State Department plans to use technology to expedite the visa application process by introducing an online process for business travelers to file visa applications and make appointments for interviews.

Problems with data sharing among the various U.S. government agencies that bear responsibility for movement of visitors at the borders are acknowledged to have slowed and complicated the visa process. The Rice-Chertoff plan seeks to eliminate that technical barrier with creation of a unified architecture of information, according to the homeland security secretary.

The new system will require the applicant to supply information to U.S. agencies only once, while allowing border officials access to electronic files on travelers coming into the United States.

“We will have the opportunity to transform our border management,” said Chertoff, “decreasing wait times at points of entry, and allowing us to focus our resources on that minority of people who pose a threat.”

The United States will also transition to an e-passport by 2007, a travel document carrying a computer chip, which will bear biometric and biographic information on the bearer. Officials say this document will strengthen security for the entire international traveling public by ensuring the document is authentic and that the person carrying the passport is the actual person to whom it was issued.

SOME IMPROVEMENTS ALREADY MADE

The officials predicted that these innovations will work to make entry to the United States more efficient and convenient than ever before, but added that significant improvements already have been made.

Since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks focused new scrutiny on U.S. border-security procedures, the State Department has made significant strides in eliminating obsolete visa systems and in improving procedures and processing times. Foreign citizens’ waiting times for visas have been reduced from months to days in many cases, but Rice called those efforts only a beginning.

After some drop off in the number of business and academic travelers to the United States in the first year after the attacks, Rice said that the number of international visitors is increasing. The United States welcomed 46 million foreign travelers in 2005, up 12 percent from 2004 in what Rice described as the greatest one-year increase in a decade.

The number of students receiving visas to study in the United States increased 9 percent in 2005 over 2004 levels, according to the secretary of state.

Homeland Security has implemented the US-VISIT (United States Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology) program at ports of entry, striving for a system that allows more thorough identification of visitors in a way that does not inconvenience travelers or slow the movement through points of entry. DHS has now put that system in place at 115 seaports and 14 seaports, documenting the entry of more than 44 million visitors.

US-VISIT officials say the program has reduced the processing time for a visitor to pass through the port of entry by as much as nine minutes. Travelers find the process unobtrusive, according to agency surveys. (See [related article](#).)

In the screening of those millions of visitors, DHS has also stopped 970 people at the borders because of their appearance on law enforcement watch lists as suspected terrorists, fugitives, or previous immigration violators.

A [transcript](#) of Rice’s remarks is available on the State Department Web site.

For additional information, see [Visas and Passports](#), as well as the [US-VISIT Web page](#) on the Homeland Security Web site.

71. United States To Begin Issuing New, Secure Passport Cards in 2006 - Cards will meet proposed Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative requirements (By Anthony Kujawa, Washington File Staff Writer, 19 Jan 2006)

Washington -- The United States anticipates issuing a new, secure passport card for land border crossings by the end of 2006, an alternative to the traditional passport book that will meet the proposed documentation requirements of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, according to Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Michael Chertoff.

“[A]s we add these new documentation requirements ... we want to make sure we're doing it in a way that continues to support the free movement of people and cargo across the border,” Chertoff said at the State Department January 17, announcing with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice a joint vision for secure borders and open doors in the information age.

The three-part plan to welcome visitors to the United States without compromising security, aims to renew America's welcome with improved technology and efficiency; develop travel documents for the 21st century; and create “smarter screening” of travelers. (See [related article](#) and [fact sheet](#).)

Chertoff said the passport card will meet the statutory mandates of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, which stipulates that anyone applying for admission to the United States, including U.S. citizens, must present secure travel documents that denote citizenship and serve as proof of identity. Other forms of identification, less secure than a passport, historically have been accepted for citizens of the United States, Canada, Mexico and Bermuda.

Officials say the goal of the program is to strengthen border security and make it faster and simpler for U.S. citizens and foreign travelers both to enter and leave the United States.

The program stems from the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, signed into law by President Bush in December 2004. The 2004 law mandated that the secretary of homeland security, in consultation with the secretary of state, develop and implement a plan to require U.S. citizens and foreign nationals to present a passport or other secure document when entering the United States, regardless of the country of origin.

Homeland Security and State formally proposed regulations to implement the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative September 1, 2005. If adopted, those regulations would take effect in phases, applying the new passport or secure document requirement to air and sea travel to or from Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean and

Bermuda as of December 31, 2006. By December 31, 2007, the passport requirement would extend to all land border crossings. (See [related article](#).)

SEARCH FOR “INEXPENSIVE, EFFICIENT, INTEROPERABLE” SYSTEM

Rice and Chertoff formally announced that the United States is committed to making a cheaper, secure alternative to the passport book by 2006 for U.S. citizens in border communities who frequently cross land borders.

“We continue to consult very closely with our Canadian and Mexican partners in the Security and Prosperity Partnership and with our other allies in this part of the world about how to best facilitate border movement in a way that is consistent with the law and security,” Chertoff said.

“[O]ur first step is to develop an inexpensive, efficient, interoperable travel card system,” he added.

The Homeland Security secretary said the passport card would be particularly useful for those citizens in border communities who regularly cross northern and southern borders. “We’re talking about essentially like the kind of driver’s license or other simple card identification that almost all of us carry in our wallets day in and day out,” he said.

Chertoff called the passport card “an important first step” in implementing a broader shared vision for a unified, user-friendly system for “trusted travelers.”

He also said the United States is working to establish a global enrollment network that will unify the various registered traveler programs into a single comprehensive system.

“The idea here is to get necessary information only one time from an applicant, and then create a system and architecture that allows both DHS and State Department officers to get access to this data to confirm the traveler’s identity,” he said.

The State Department anticipates that the border-crossing cards currently in use -- also known as a “laser visa” -- will continue to be acceptable as a substitute for a passport and a visa for citizens of Mexico traveling into the United States from across the Mexican border. The department also anticipates that existing documents used at land border crossings in international frequent traveler programs known by the acronyms SENTRI, NEXUS and FAST will be accepted. Although the three programs vary slightly, they are based on the same principle of pre-screening and identifying low-risk travelers so they can cross the international border without having to go through the traditional inspections process.

Through a “unified architecture,” Chertoff said the United States aims to decrease wait times at ports of entry and focus resources on that minority of people who pose a threat.

Additional information is available on the Web site of the departments of [Homeland Security](#) and [State](#).

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