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CABLE Gram Volume 3 Issue 3

30 January 2006 *CABLE Gram*TM

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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. Experts Back Regional DHS Offices to Aid Disaster Response (Global Security Newswire, 24 Jan 2006)

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Homeland Security Department should establish regional offices to better support emergency responders in the event of a major terrorist attack or other catastrophe, experts said yesterday (see [GSN](#), Oct. 6, 2004). The department has said it intends in this fiscal year to begin developing a regional structure, an idea long championed by former Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge. Proponents say regional offices would better incorporate state and local officials' needs into the department's plans and would improve coordination of multijurisdiction response efforts, which are often ad hoc or uneven. Experts at a Heritage Foundation discussion agreed that regional offices are needed to aid state and local responders but differed over questions such as whether aspects of the effort should be outsourced to private companies.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2006_1_24.html#619A4156

2. DHS urged to finish analysis of visitor tracking system (GovExec.com, By Chris Strohm, 26 Jan 2006)

The Homeland Security Department has yet to complete a strategic plan and key cost-benefit analyses for the nation's visitor tracking system, despite having spent \$1.4 billion on the effort, a Government Accountability Office official told lawmakers Wednesday. The department has met challenging goals and timelines for the U.S. Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology program, said Randolph Hite, GAO's director of information technology architecture and systems issues. But DHS lacks a final plan showing how the program, which has been the centerpiece of the government's border security push, will be integrated with other immigration and security initiatives, he said. Jim Williams, the program's manager, told members of the Senate Appropriations Homeland Security Subcommittee that a strategic plan has been submitted to the department for approval and that he has had discussions about it with senior staff. He did not provide an estimate on when the plan is likely to be approved.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33233&dcn=e_gvet

3. Senate budget adviser sees DHS funding increase (GovExec.com, 26 Jan 2006)

The Homeland Security Department may be the only federal agency whose funding will be increased by Congress this year, the Senate's senior budget adviser said Thursday. Homeland security issues will dominate this session of Congress, with funding increases expected for areas such as border security, Gulf Coast recovery operations and technology to defend against weapons of mass destruction, said G. William Hoagland, senior budget adviser for Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., during a forum organized by Equity International and consulting firm McKenna Long & Aldridge.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33244&dcn=todaysnews

4. FBI project targets human smuggling - Effort to raise awareness of trafficking, stop rings and protect victims (The Charlotte Observer, 25 Jan 2006)

The FBI is launching a new effort to raise awareness of human trafficking. Calling it an offense against humanity akin to modern-day slavery, the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Charlotte estimates thousands of victims are trafficked into the state each year for forced labor and prostitution. "This is something that is flying under the radar," said Special Agent Kevin Kendrick, who is heading the local campaign. "This is a big problem." In conjunction with increased investigative efforts to shut down human trafficking rings, the FBI is teaming up with local advocacy groups and social organizations to get a message out that federal agents should be trusted and not feared.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.charlotte.com/mld/observer/news/local/13705052.htm>

5. Crackdown on Smuggling Targets U.S. Drivers - Americans face initial \$5,000 fines for shuttling illegal migrants. Critics say penalty isn't enough. (Los Angeles Times, 26 Jan 2006)

SAN DIEGO - Federal authorities have launched a national effort to curtail human smuggling by fining American drivers caught bringing in illegal migrants inside vehicles, but the program is coming under criticism for not going far enough. Last fiscal year, 4,078 U.S. citizens were arrested at the two main gateways into California from Mexico, but because federal prosecutors say they don't have the resources to pursue every case only 279 faced alien smuggling charges. As a potential deterrent, U.S. authorities last week began fining suspected smugglers \$5,000 for their first offense, \$10,000 for the second.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?E2CE2198C>

6. TSA Announces Key Elements of Registered Traveler Program (Government Technology, 27 Jan 2006)

[The Transportation Security Administration \(TSA\)](#) has announced several parameters for a nationwide private sector Registered Traveler (RT) program, including the biometrics to be used for identification purposes and the redress process for individuals who are denied access to the program. The Registered Traveler program is envisioned as a means to accelerate the screening process at participating airports for passengers who voluntarily choose to enroll in the program. As the recently announced Rice-Chertoff vision for developing new solutions that ensure the best use of new technologies and more efficient processes to improve security and facilitate travel across U.S. borders moves forward, TSA will work with the private sector providers of Registered Traveler programs to harmonize technologies and business processes with government-sponsored travel facilitation programs. Moving forward, the program will be harmonized with the DHS-State Department PASS System (People, Access, Security, Service), the credentialing effort announced earlier this week by Secretaries Rice and Chertoff.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.govtech.net/magazine/channel_story.php/98119

7. FBI, TSA Agree To Pay ACLU Over No-Fly Lists (Aero-News.Net, 26 Jan 2006)

An agreement has been reached between representatives with the Federal Aviation Administration and Transportation Security Administration, and the American Civil Liberties Union over a lawsuit originally brought about to uncover information about the government's no-fly list. Under terms of the settlement, the agencies will compensate the ACLU for attorneys' fees in cases involving Rebecca Gordon and Janet Adams, two San Francisco-area peace activists who publish a newsletter critical of the Bush administration. The Associated Press reports both were detained while checking in for a flight to Boston in 2003.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?W2AE1298C>

8. U.S. Transportation Secretary discusses rail safety plan (KRISTV.com, 25 Jan 2006)

FORT WORTH, Texas - In a quiet and dimly lit cubicle, a worker monitors a computer screen with information from about 50 wireless transmitters on 175 miles of railroad tracks in Texas and Oklahoma. If a railroad switch isn't in the proper position, the worker calls the oncoming train and tells the crew to stop so a railroad worker can manually move the switch, avoiding a potentially deadly derailment or collision. The monitoring system is a pilot program in BNSF Railway's network operations center in Fort Worth. It started in November as part of a national rail safety plan initiated last spring by U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.kristv.com/Global/story.asp?S=4410324&nav=Bsmh>

9. Officials Plan To Protect Against Bioterrorism Through Food (nbc4i, 23 Jan 2006)

COLUMBUS, Ohio - State officials and local grocers are trying to determine how safe the food at grocery stores is, as they plan ways to protect residents from bioterrorism. Officials said that in one case, two Chilean grapes that were found injected with cyanide completely cut off shipments of grapes from Chile to the United States. Ohio will become the second state in the nation to develop a food defense preparedness guide for food retailers, NBC 4's Lauren Crowner reported. Most grocers tout the staples of a grocery store produce aisle as fresh and untampered with. Now, to be sure, retailers are taking extra steps to make sure the food is safe.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nbc4i.com/news/6375129/detail.html>

10. Vaccine Provides 100% Protection Against Avian Flu Virus In Animal Study (SPX, 27 Jan 2006)

Pittsburgh PA - University of Pittsburgh researchers announced they have genetically engineered an avian flu vaccine from the critical components of the deadly H5N1 virus that completely protected mice and chickens from infection. Avian flu has devastated bird populations in Southeast Asia and Europe and so far has killed more than 80 people.

Because this vaccine contains a live virus, it may be more immune-activating than avian flu vaccines prepared by traditional methods, say the researchers.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?N10152D8C>

11. U.S. Plans to Consolidate Savannah River Plutonium (Global Security Newswire, 24 Jan 2006)

The U.S. Energy Department plans to consolidate plutonium stored at its Savannah River Site in South Carolina in one place to better monitor the material and defend against terrorism, the Associated Press reported (see [GSN](#), Oct. 17, 2005). An old nuclear reactor will house the material, according to Energy Department documents. "This will be a more secure, hardened facility," said Perry Holcomb of the SRS Citizens Advisory Board. Studies by the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board and the Government Accountability Office recommended changes. The safety board's report in 2003 also suggested that nuclear weapons complex storage space lacks proper filtration, ventilation and fire protection. It also found that plutonium could not be removed from storage containers to ensure stability.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2006_1_24.html#88C70690

12. Identity Theft Leads FTC's Top 10 List (ConsumerAffairs.com, 25 Jan 2006)

Identity theft leads the Federal Trade Commission's annual report detailing consumer complaints. Complaints about identity theft accounted for 255,000 of more than 686,000 complaints filed with the agency in 2005. The complaints, filed online or at a toll-free number, are shared via a secure database with more than 1,400 federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, and law enforcement and consumer protection agencies in Canada and Australia. Identity theft complaints represented 37 percent of the 686,683 complaints filed.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.consumeraffairs.com/news04/2006/01/ftc_top10.html

13. Money launderers increasingly use prepaid services (The Financial Express Editorial, by Todd Bullock, 28 Jan 2006)

GIFT cards, phone cards, other prepaid services and Internet banking give criminals new opportunities to launder money from their crimes, according to a report from US financial and law enforcement agencies. The Money Laundering and Threat Assessment (MLTA), released by 16 agencies, is the first governmentwide analysis of money laundering in the United States. A working group, which prepared the report, analysed law enforcement statistics, observations and regulatory data to assess the vulnerabilities that allow criminals to launder money in the US financial system. Under Secretary of Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Stuart Levey, who briefed reporters recently, cited the use of prepaid phone cards as "an emerging cash alternative for both legitimate consumers and money launderers." He said that these cards provide an "easily transportable and anonymous way to store and access cash."

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?G31121D8C>

14. FBI Chief Cites Worldwide Intel (AP, 26 Jan 2006)

FBI director Robert Mueller said Thursday the United States now acts on intelligence from any place in the world to fight terrorism but has not sacrificed individuals' rights to privacy in that effort. However, during an interview with The Associated Press, Mueller would not discuss renditions, the practice of covertly moving imprisoned terrorist suspects between countries outside normal legal processes.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtop.com/?nid=383&sid=681006>

15. FBI has confidence in Torino security (AP, 24 Jan 2006)

TURIN, Italy - FBI director Robert Mueller visited venues for next month's Olympics on Tuesday and expressed confidence in Italian security preparations. Mueller made a side trip to Turin while on a visit to Europe and was briefed by top Italian security officials on plans for the Feb. 10-26 Games. "We know well and are confident in Italy's significant experience and capabilities in organizing security for major international events," Mueller said in a statement released by the Interior Ministry, which is co-ordinating security for the Games. The interior minister said Monday that Italy has spent more than \$107 million US (\$123.6 million Cdn) on security for the Olympics, a figure that will increase in the weeks leading up to the Games.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.tsn.ca/olympics/news_story.asp?ID=152127&hubName=olympics

16. UK cops may spy on 40 mn passengers (The Financial Express, 24 Jan 2006)

LONDON: British police and security services will be given access to advanced travel details on more than 40 million passengers using domestic flights and ferries every year, a move aimed at helping authorities track the movement of suspected terrorists. The new power in the police and Justice Bill to be announced tomorrow will enable security forces to check names against watchlists for terror suspects and wanted criminals and to develop a "profiling system" of those worthy of further scrutiny, the guardian daily reported today. Airlines will be expected to provide personal online details of all passengers as they book seats and subsequently check in at the airport. There are discussions with the travel industry over what documents passengers will have to show before they can board a flight in Britain. On specified routes where there is considered to be a major threat, the police will be able to demand the provision of "bulk data" - blanket passenger and crew lists - on all flights travelling on that route before departure.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.financialexpress.com/latest_full_story.php?content_id=115509

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS

17. AK: Senate considers identity theft bill (AP, 25 Jan 2006)

A Senate committee began work Tuesday on a bipartisan bill to prevent identity theft. The measure requires businesses that collect personal information to notify consumers of any security breaches. It also allows consumers the discretion to "freeze and unfreeze" access to credit report information, and restricts the sale and distribution of social security

numbers. North Pole Republican Gene Therriault and Anchorage Democrat Gretchen Guess introduced separate measures last session. The proposals were merged over the interim in hopes of crafting legislation that will pass this session.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.ktva.com/local/ci_3436758

18. CA: Hawthorne ready to ground its police helicopter for good (Daily Breeze, 26 Jan 2006)

Hawthorne plans to dismantle its police helicopter program unless other cities in the South Bay step forward with tens of thousands of dollars to help cover its costs. City leaders quietly agreed to ground the helicopter earlier this month, despite an internal police report describing it as a potent crime-fighter. They defended the decision this week as a business move made in a time of tightening budgets. "Air 55" is the only police helicopter dedicated full time to the South Bay. Other cities have agreed in recent months to pay into the program, but not nearly enough to satisfy Hawthorne officials.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.dailybreeze.com/news/articles/2234221.html>

19. CO: Prowers County Public Health Nursing Service develops mass emergency response systems (Lamar Daily News, 26 Jan 2006)

The Prowers County Public Health Nursing Service has been working with various other local and state health agencies to prepare for emergencies and to protect the citizens of Colorado while preventing disease and injury. The Prowers County Public Health Nursing Service's role in providing health services in emergencies was already in place within the state. Colorado was one of few states that had been performing mass health care exercises long before the bioterrorism attacks of 2001. On October 16th, 2004 the Prowers County Public Health Nursing Service participated in a nine county disaster exercise.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.lamardaily.com/Stories/0,1413,121%257E7979%257E3215738,00.html>

20. FL: Palm Beach County legislators push for bioterrorism training center (Sun-Sentinel, 28 Jan 2006)

TALLAHASSEE - Two Republican legislators from Palm Beach County are seeking \$3.6 million in state taxpayer money to create a bioterrorism disaster-training center in Boca Raton under an arrangement between Florida Atlantic University and a company associated with former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani. The proposal has legislators from both parties questioning why the company, Bio-One, is soliciting what's tantamount to a no-bid deal with the state of Florida. Skeptical legislators are also asking why the state should invest in biohazard training when the federal government already spends millions of dollars on such training through military and homeland security programs.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?U2B152D8C>

21. FL: Judge in smuggling case says sentencing guidelines are too lenient (South Florida Sun-Sentinel, 24 Jan 2006)

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. - A Miami federal judge lashed out at federal sentencing guidelines Tuesday, saying they would not provide a sufficiently severe sentence for two men whose effort to smuggle Cubans into the United States last year ended in the drowning of a young boy. Alexander Gil Rodriguez, 25, and Luis Manuel Taboada Cabrera, 29, pleaded guilty in November 2005 to illegally attempting to transport immigrants to the United States. Their speedboat was detected by the U.S. Coast Guard and capsized as Gil Rodriguez and Taboada Cabrera allegedly tried to evade capture. Julian Villasuso Jr., 6, who was on board the vessel with his parents, was trapped under the boat and drowned.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.grandforks.com/mld/grandforks/news/nation/13703227.htm>

22. FL: Emergency crews update haz-mat skills (Orlando Sentinel, 27 Jan 2006)

POINCIANA - Osceola County Emergency Services crews are in the midst of two weeks of training at Fire Station 42 in Poinciana to brush up their skills on dealing with hazardous materials. The training program also wraps up a state certification process that all haz-mat technicians must complete under new Florida guidelines. The most common "extremely hazardous" substances typically found in Florida are sulfuric acid, anhydrous ammonia, nitric acid, adiponitrile -- a light-colored, oily liquid used in manufacturing that can be inhaled or absorbed through the skin -- and chlorine, officials said.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?L2C112D8C>

23. IL: New rules will fight terrorism (Pantagraph.com, 28 Jan 2006)

BLOOMINGTON - Dennis McCormick knows where every ingredient arriving at his mill comes from before he mixes it into cattle and swine feed for his customers. In fact, the owner of Bellflower Feed Mill records every lot number of every ingredient received just in case customers have any problems with feed. But all the recordkeeping may not be enough to meet looming federal bioterrorism deadlines. Grain elevators and feed mills have joined a long list of places ranging from airports to government buildings that now face increased security since the 2001 terrorist attacks.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.pantagraph.com/articles/2006/01/28/business/105044.txt>

24. IA: Department of Homeland Security picks Kirkwood to receive \$3.2 million grant (Kirkwood Communique, 26 Jan 2006)

When talk of potential terrorist threats comes up in private conversations, chemical and biological terrorism are usually mentioned. Yet, there is another type of terrorism, called agricultural terrorism (also known as agroterrorism). This type of terrorism pertains to agriculture such as livestock and even crops. Homeland Security has decided to take this type of terrorism seriously and therefore has approved an agroterrorism preparedness course, located on the Kirkwood Community College campus. This course is being held at the Kirkwood Agroterrorism Preparedness Center, which is located in the Community Training and Response Center. The cost of this building, the only center of its kind in Iowa, was \$2 million, and according to Ron Snyder, program director of the Preparedness Center, "The CTRC was funded by Kirkwood and community and county sponsors. The

Agterror Preparedness Center received \$3.2 million from the Department of Homeland Security to design, develop and deliver training for response to foreign animal diseases." ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?O42121D8C>

25. NY: Man Arrested At Canadian Border Accused Of Smuggling \$78,000 (AP, 24 Jan 2006)

Niagara Falls, NY - He told border agents he had \$100 on him. He was only off by about, oh, \$78,000. US Customs and Border Protection officials say its officers arrested an Albanian-born Canadian citizen Xhino Karma after he tried to smuggle nearly \$78,000 into Canada at the Rainbow Bridge border crossing in Niagara Falls. Authorities said the man told officers he had spent the day in Buffalo on Saturday and was returning to Canada. He told them he had \$100 in US currency.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?I1285268C>

26. OH: State issues identity theft alert (WTOL, 24 Jan 2006)

COLUMBUS, Ohio State officials say beware of letters or phone calls from an organization calling itself the "Department of Unclaimed Funds." It's a scam. The so-called organization is telling Ohioans that they have unclaimed funds waiting to be claimed and asks for a credit card number to charge 80 dollars to receive a claim form. The organization also has asked for copies of drivers' licenses and Social Security cards.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtol.com/Global/story.asp?S=4404617>

27. PA: UPMC Developing Biodefense System For Attacks (The Pittsburgh Channel, 26 Jan 2006)

PITTSBURGH - Rep. John Murtha says if America comes under attack, it will likely happen in Washington D.C. or New York City. The government would turn to Pittsburgh for additional technology, patient care and response, he said. On Thursday, UPMC received a major grant from the government to develop a high-tech bioterrorism communication plan -- in the hopes other big cities will follow suit. Recent tragedies, like 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina, helped highlight some of the weaknesses when it comes to medical responders and their ability to communicate with other people around them. The government is giving UPMC millions of dollars in the hopes they can come up with some kind of plan to connect emergency medical responders, hospitals, the military and civilians during times of tragedies. The government gave UPMC \$8.5 million to develop a strategic bio-defense operation and communications system.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.thepittsburghchannel.com/news/6465044/detail.html>

28. TN: Certificates lure illegal immigrants (AP, 29 Jan 2006)

Tennessee's driving certificate for illegal immigrants isn't valid as a form of ID, but people are paying hundreds of dollars on the black market and traveling hundreds of miles to get one. Tennessee has issued more than 51,000 certificates since it became the first state to offer them in July 2004, but not every certificate has gone to someone living

there. Two major federal arrests in recent months exposed shuttles bringing South and Central American immigrants from as far away as New Jersey to state licensing centers in Knoxville, where the immigrants got certificates using fake residency papers.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?B5D122D8C>

29. TX: Identity Theft Cases are Up (KTRE, 24 Jan 2006)

The Lufkin police department works somewhere around 200 identity theft cases a year, and they don't see the caseload slowing down. But, there are ways to protect yourself. Detective Otis Almond, of the Lufkin Police Department, said, "If you live in the rural area or in the city and you set your mail out to be picked up, stop, especially at the end of the month. That's when people drive around looking for the red flags, when bills are due and checks are coming in."

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.ktre.com/Global/story.asp?S=4405513&nav=2FH5>

30. UT: Utah Ranks Near Top for Fraud, ID Theft Complaints (ksl.com, 25 Jan 2006)

Identity theft again tops the list of consumer complaints in an annual report released by the Federal Trade Commission. Utah ranks near the top in the number of complaints for fraud and identity theft. There's a lot of information in the 77 page report from the FTC. Several things are clear, identity theft and crime on-line are flourishing, but quick action by consumers helps investigators fight fraud. Fraud victims in America pay dearly...and the amount a fraud victim loses in a scam grows each year. In 2003, the average fraud victim lost 18-hundred dollars. Today, it's more than 24-hundred dollars. More than one-third of all fraud complaints in 2005 were for identity theft. Randy Tuckett, U.S. Postal Inspector: "It takes hours and hours of personal effort and thousands of dollars to clear up their credit after it's been ruined."

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.ksl.com/?nid=148&sid=154711>

31. UT: Governor Opts To Veto Proposed Site Expansion (BYU NewsNet, 24 Jan 2006)

Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr. declared he will veto the proposed expansion of a Tooele County radioactive waste disposal site owned by Envirocare. However, the expansion proposal may receive help from senators who on Monday, Jan. 23, 2006, recommended a bill that would take away the governor's ability to veto the issue. "The governor has stated his strong opposition to this bill because he feels it's not in the best interest of this state," Huntsman's spokesman Michael Mower said. The one-square mile site receives hazardous materials from all over the nation via railway. Envirocare's director of public relations Mark Walker listed Ohio, Colorado and South Carolina as recent sources of materials taken to the site. Mower said the governor opposes the expansion in order to look out for the health and safety of Utahns. He also said the governor was concerned about the image of Utah and does not want it to become a dumping ground.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://newsnet.byu.edu/story.cfm/58092>

32. VA: Authorities get \$3 million netted from cigarette smuggling ring (AP, 25 Jan 2006)

ROANOKE, Va. - State and Roanoke Valley authorities received a total of nearly \$3 million Wednesday that was forfeited by nine people convicted in a cigarette smuggling ring, U.S. Attorney John Brownlee said. The nine, all from the Los Angeles area, pleaded guilty last year and received penalties that ranged from fines to two years in prison. During the four-year investigation, the defendants bought more than 100 million cigarettes in Virginia and transported them to California, investigators said. The smugglers avoided paying more than \$4.7 million in California taxes.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?J19E2298C>

33. WI: Flight attendant arrested with inactive grenade (Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 25 Jan 2006)

MILWAUKEE - A Northwest Airlines flight attendant faces charges after security officers found a real - but inactive - hand grenade in her carry-on luggage at Mitchell International Airport, officials said Wednesday. The flight attendant, a 39-year-old woman from Cordova, Tenn., was scheduled to work on a Milwaukee-to-Detroit flight Tuesday morning when federal Transportation Security Administration officers detected an inert grenade in her baggage, said Kim Brooks, a spokeswoman for the Milwaukee County sheriff's office. They called sheriff's deputies, who arrested her about 5:30 a.m. Tuesday, Brooks said.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.sunherald.com/mld/sunherald/news/nation/13711421.htm>

KEY PEOPLE

34. NY: Top Narc Heads Crime Unity (NY Daily News, 27 Jan 2006)

The NYPD's top narcotics cop has been promoted to run the department's Organized Crime Control Bureau, the police commissioner announced yesterday. Assistant Chief Anthony Izzo will start his new job Feb. 1. His predecessor, Chief Douglas Zeigler, was tapped Wednesday to head the department's expanded Community Affairs Bureau. "Chief Izzo has done an outstanding job of marshaling the department's resources in our ongoing efforts to combat narcotics trafficking," Commissioner Raymond Kelly said. Izzo "has consistently shown his ability to manage the complex and demanding requirements of this important mission," Kelly said.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/local/story/386174p-327694c.html>

GANG ACTIVITY

35. Gang plots border attack - Department of Homeland Security document reveals MS-13 plan (Daily Bulletin, 29 Jan 2006)

Members of a violent international gang working for drug cartels in Central and South America are planning coordinated attacks along the U.S. border with Mexico, according

to a Department of Homeland Security document obtained by the Daily Bulletin. Detailed inside a Jan. 20 officer safety alert, the plot's ultimate goal is to "begin gaining control of areas, cities and regions within the U.S." The information comes from the interrogation of a captured member of Mara Salvatrucha, or MS-13, a transnational criminal syndicate born from displaced El Salvadoran death squads from the 1980s. The MS-13 member, who claimed to have smuggled cocaine for the Gulf Cartel, explained a plan to amass MS-13 members in Mexican border towns such as Nuevo Laredo, Acuna, Ojinaga and Juarez. The Gulf Cartel runs its drug smuggling operations from Del Rio, Texas, to south of Matamoros, Mexico.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.dailybulletin.com/news/ci_3448828

36. CA: Order allows felony arrests - LAPD can nab deportees who re-enter U.S. (Daily News, 25 Jan 2006)

A long-standing order designed to restrict Los Angeles police from enforcing immigration laws does not bar officers from pursuing deported felons who have re-entered the country, Assistant Police Chief George Gascon told the Police Commission on Tuesday. The interpretation of Special Order 40 - the 27-year-old policy that prohibits officers from arresting people for illegally entering the country and from investigating a person's immigration status - comes as Los Angeles Police Department leaders get ready to finalize a department directive on how officers should interpret the order's restrictions. "We deal with violent felons who are wanted, regardless of what their immigration status is," Gascon told the new Police Commission. "We have always acted upon information regarding this very specific population."

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.dailynews.com/news/ci_3434300

37. CA: Oakland gangs are out hunting (The Oakland Tribune, 24 Jan 2006)

'WHEN you have two cars with four or five kids in a car cruising around, looking for rival gangs, and they've got guns, that's hunting," said Sgt. Fred Mestas, supervisor of the Oakland Police Department's gang unit. He was describing the rash of gang-related shootings and killings in Oakland. In the most recent, the driver, two passengers and a man pumping gas were shot Saturday night after the driver pulled into a Fruitvale area gas station. Doctors say the driver, Reuben Aviles, 27, is brain-dead and will not recover. The previous Sunday, 17-year-old Ever Ramos and two friends were mistaken for gang members and shot after a group inside a car challenged them and they tried to run away. Ramos, who had come to Oakland from Honduras just four months earlier, died. The night before, 15-year-old Alberto Salvador Villarreal was shot and killed on East 15th Street, not far from where Ramos was shot.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.insidebayarea.com/oaklandtribune/bpayton/ci_3432160

38. FL: Violent gang, MS-13, making name known - Marion County officials learn details about mafia group (Ocala Star Banner, 26 Jan 2006)

Marion sheriff's Maj. Terry Bovaird is concerned about the emergence of Mara Salvatrucha, or MS-13, as it is known, considered by some to be one of the world's most

violent gangs.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?N2DE4598C>

39. IL: Gang member charged in terrorism hoax (Chicago Sun-Times, 27 Jan 2006)

A gang member from Northlake told FBI agents last year about a terrorist plot to blow up the Chicago headquarters of a corporation -- but it turned out he made up the whole story, according to an indictment handed up by a federal grand jury this week. Gilbert Romero, 30, is charged with two counts of making false statements and one count of reporting a hoax terrorism threat. The threat came to light while Romero was an inmate at Cook County Jail, where he was sent after being picked up for burglary while on parole, authorities said. The FBI was notified that Romero claimed to have information on a plan to blow up a building, so agents came in to interview him, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Edward Siskel.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.suntimes.com/output/news/cst-nws-fakeplot27.html>

40. NJ: 'Actions won't go unpunished': Grand jury indicts 9 gang members (Trentonian.com, 27 Jan 2006)

TRENTON - Gang lord Jose "Boom Bat" Negrete, and the eight underlings who make up the notorious Latin King 9, were indicted by a Mercer County Grand Jury this week in the 2004 execution-style slaying of queen bee Jeri Lynn Dotson. The indictments, handed down Wednesday, "serves as a warning to gangs in Mercer County that (the Prosecutor's Office) will not sit idly by while they terrorize our communities," Prosecutor Joe Bocchini said in a statement. "The arrests of these individuals was just the beginning," he continued. "Their violent actions will not go unpunished." Negrete, 23, who was indicted for conspiracy, murder, attempted murder, tampering with evidence and related weapons offenses, allegedly had Dotson killed because she witnessed his enforcers drag another member -- they allegedly were told to execute -- from her Chestnut Avenue home Aug. 30.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?F2E112D8C>

41. TX: Border Patrol Arrests MS Gang Members (KGBT4, 25s Jan 2006)

In less than a week, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol agents have arrested five Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) gang members in five separate incidents across South Texas. The first arrest occurred on Saturday when agents arrested seven people trying to cross into the U.S. west of the Brownsville International Bridge. One of those detained was a 20-year-old man from El Salvador who had tattoos similar to those used by MS-13 gang members. The man had previously been deported and had a criminal record in Los Angeles.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.team4news.com/Global/story.asp?S=4409819&nav=0w0v>

42. TX: MS-13 arrests ahead of pace (KRGVTV, 25 Jan 2006)

MCALLEN - Five suspected members of the violent Central American gang Mara Salvatrucha have been arrested in South Texas this week. Details were announced today by US Customs and Border Protection. All were identified as being Salvadoran, with criminal histories that included weapons violations, attempted murder and assault with a deadly weapon. The arrests occurred near Brownsville, Rio Grande City and farther north in Combes, Riviera, and Corpus Christi.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.newschannel5.tv/2006/1/25/6056/MS-13-arrests-ahead-of-pace>

43. VA: Authorities ID suspects in burglaries (Culpeper Star Exponent, 24 Jan 2006)

Culpeper Police are close to bringing a string of Belle Avenue burglaries to an end. Four suspects, who are believed to be members of the MS-13 gang, have been identified in the daytime break-ins, which occurred from Dec. 12 to Jan. 19, according to Culpeper police. Javier Medina, 21, is the only suspect that remains “wanted” for two counts each of breaking and entering and grand larceny.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?W1182268C>

44. VA: Officials ask for help in cases (Culpeper Star Exponent, 25 Jan 2006)

In a show airing this week on Channel 21, Crime Solvers’ Nancy Garrett interviews Major Jim Branch of the Sheriff’s Office and Lt. Patrick Coffey of the Police Department about several unsolved cases. The Sherri Warner investigation tops the agenda, a case Branch said strikes at the heart of what people feel is most important, “the need to feel safe.” While the Sheriff’s Office has not officially ruled out suicide, Branch said investigators are considering the case a homicide and proceeding with the investigation as such. “If you assume the worst and go from there, you can always go down,” he said. When Garrett asked if the Sheriff’s Office has received any leads that cause it to believe the case will be solved, Branch said he was “very optimistic.” In addition to Virginia State Police investigators, Branch said the Sheriff’s Office has received assistance from the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms, as well as behavioral sciences experts.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?A2FE3298C>

NARCO TRAFFICKING

45. AL: Narcotics agents bust 3 in cocaine trafficking (The Decatur Daily News, 27 Jan 2006)

The Morgan County Drug Task Force took down three alleged cocaine traffickers in raids on two Decatur residences that turned up a kilo of cocaine, the sheriff’s office said Thursday. Narcotics agents found crack cocaine and powder cocaine at the 804 Eighth St. S.W. residence of Joseph Christopher Cowan and the 603 13th Ave. N.W. residence of Mary Nell Cowan, Morgan County Chief Deputy Mike Corley said. The street value of the 2.2 pounds of drugs is about \$95,000, Corley said.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.decaturdaily.com/decaturdaily/news/060127/bust.shtml>

46. AZ: Drug-smuggling try nets 19 years for Mexican man (Arizona Daily Star, 25 Jan 2006)

Tucson, Arizona - A Mexican citizen was sentenced in Tucson to more than 19 years in prison Monday after he was caught trying to smuggle methamphetamine and cocaine. Jorge Jesus Serrano-Villa, 41, was arrested Sept. 19, 2004, at the Nogales port of entry when officers found a trapdoor in a front passenger wheel well of the vehicle he was driving. The trapdoor led to a non-factory compartment that was holding 42 packages of meth and cocaine, according to a news release from the Department of Justice. Serrano-Villa admitted that he knew the drugs were in the vehicle and that he had been offered \$5,000 to register the vehicle in his name and drive it to Tucson, the release said.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.azstarnet.com/allheadlines/112910>

47. AZ: Former Border Patrol agent indicted on drug smuggling charge (News 5 Phoenix, 26 Jan 2006)

TUCSON, Ariz. A Border Patrol agent is under indictment in Tucson for allegedly attempting to smuggle marijuana. Authorities say Michael Carlos Gonzalez of Vail was caught on videotape taking about 22 pounds of marijuana from a pickup abandoned by a smuggler last month while trying to elude D-P-S. The video was captured by a camera on a D-P-S patrol car.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.kpho.com/Global/story.asp?S=4413765&nav=23Ku>

48. AZ: 8 more agree to guilty pleas in FBI coke-smuggling sting (Arizona Daily Star, 27 Jan 2006)

A former Davis-Monthan Air Force Base sergeant and two Tucson National Guard members are among eight people who have agreed to plead guilty to conspiracy in the latest prosecutions linked to a cocaine-smuggling and corruption sting operation. The defendants include five current or former military personnel, a state prison employee and two civilians, the U.S. Justice Department said. Each of them escorted at least one shipment of cocaine from locations such as Nogales, Ariz., or Tucson to destinations including Phoenix and Las Vegas, the department said in a news release Thursday.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.azstarnet.com/allheadlines/113253>

49. GA: Hall Co. Cocaine Ring Busted (News 11, 24 Jan 2006)

Two Hall County men, supposedly operating a building supply company, were actually operating a major cocaine distribution hub, according to investigators. Police seized \$4 million worth of cocaine in the largest seizure ever in Hall County. The fact that it was cocaine is considered to be a surprise by investigators, because statistically, it is not the drug of choice in Hall County. Methamphetamine is. "Cocaine, to see this much again coming in, is very alarming, and particularly because of the other crime that goes along with it -- violence that goes along with drug distribution," said Hall County Sheriff Steve Cronic.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.11alive.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=75076

50. MA: 9 charged with selling cocaine (Country Gazete, 27 Jan 2006)

Nine people arrested in Norfolk, Wrentham and Norton last week are facing charges of trafficking and distributing cocaine in the area. The arrests resulted as part of an ongoing investigation by the Northern Bristol County Drug Task Force, according to Norton police detective Stephen Desfosses. According to reports from Norfolk, Wrentham and Norton Police and the Northern Bristol County Drug Task Force, all nine people are being charged with either trafficking or distributing cocaine. The nine arrests were made at homes in Norfolk, Wrentham and Norton, and at the Wrentham Village Premium Outlet Mall, on Thursday, Jan. 19 within a three-hour span and resulted in the total seizure of an estimated 60 grams of cocaine worth about \$14,000, Desfosses said.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www2.townonline.com/bellingham/localRegional/view.bg?articleid=417878>

51. NJ: Ex-Customs inspector, brother sentenced in drug smuggling plot (AP, 29 Jan 2006)

NEWARK, N.J. - A former U.S. Customs Service inspector and his brother were sentenced Thursday to lengthy federal prison terms for their roles in a plot to smuggle large amounts of cocaine into the United States. Jorge Reyerros, 54, who was a supervisory inspector for the Customs Service, and Juan Reyerros, 56, were convicted earlier this month of conspiring to import 150 kilograms or more of cocaine in 1999. Jorge Reyerros also was convicted of accessing a Customs Service computer without authorization and exceeding his authorized access to the computer in April 1999, while Juan Reyerros also was convicted of aiding and abetting that access.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?J63135D8C>

52. NM: Drug Sting Nabs Three Alleged Cocaine Dealers (The New Mexico Channel, 26 Jan 2006)

Action 7 News was at a scene where Federal agents on Thursday said they caught three drug dealers in a sting. The sting occurred near the K-Mart at Interstate 40 and Carlisle Street in Albuquerque Thursday afternoon. Investigators said New Mexico is safer because the three drug dealers were caught and are now off the street. While prescription drugs are sold at the K-Mart pharmacy, the dealers were selling the illegal kind right in the parking lot. "They did show up, they did meet with our undercover agents and subsequently they were arrested," said DEA Special Agent Evelyn Kilgas.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.thenewmexicochannel.com/news/6484179/detail.html>

53. NY: 19 face charges linked to heroin smuggling (AP, 28 Jan 2006)

NEW YORK - A Panama-based ring used a group of smugglers who were adept at swallowing drug-filled pellets to sneak millions of dollars worth of heroin into the city, authorities said Friday. Police and Drug Enforcement Administration officials announced the arrests of 19 people in the international heroin ring, including some of the so-called swallows. The organization paid the swallows up to \$10,000 plus expenses to ingest

dozens of heroin-packed pellets - condoms or latex glove fingers wrapped in tape - then take flights from Panama to New York, where they expelled the drugs by going to the bathroom.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.buffalonews.com/editorial/20060128/6031993.asp>

54. MO: Police seize 265 pounds of cocaine (News-Leader, 29 Jan 2006)

A drug bust Saturday on Interstate 44 intercepted a coast-to-coast shipment of more than 260 pounds of cocaine. The illicit cargo was revealed after a routine inspection of an eastbound tractor-trailer at the Strafford weigh station, said Sgt. Dan Bracker, Troop D spokesman for the Missouri Highway Patrol. Inspectors became suspicious of the truck's driver and passenger and called the patrol about 9:15 a.m. "Their paperwork wasn't correct, and their conversation wasn't adding up," Bracker said.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.news-leader.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060129/NEWS01/601290357>

55. PA: Drug bust nets \$5M in cocaine (Pocono Record, 24 Jan 2006)

CHESTNUTHILL TOWNSHIP - A Poconos storage facility served as a holding station for a multi-million-dollar nationwide drug trafficking operation, according to investigators who broke up the ring earlier this month. Authorities said David Gonzalez, of 5899 Tumbleweed Drive, Long Pond, was storing drugs in a rented public storage unit on Route 115 in Chestnuthill Township since at least July 2005 under a false name. A Jan. 9 raid of that facility - specifically the unit Gonzalez had been renting - turned up more than 200 kilos of cocaine worth approximately \$5 million on the street, according to federal investigators in New York City.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?Y62C1298C>

56. TX: Soldier convicted in drug-smuggling case (AP, 26 Jan 2006)

FORT BLISS, Texas - A military judge found a soldier guilty Thursday of masterminding a drug ring that brought massive amounts of cocaine into the U.S. from an American air base in Colombia. Staff Sgt. Daniel Rosas was convicted of money laundering, and importing and distributing cocaine. He was acquitted of a count that he used drugs. Rosas, a member of the 204th Military Intelligence Battalion, could face more than 300 years in prison when Lt. Col. Jeffery Nance, the military judge, sentences him Friday. Prosecutors said a series of witnesses and abundant evidence - including two lengthy statements he gave to investigators - supported Rosas' role as the mastermind of the international cocaine ring.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/national/1110AP_Soldier_Drug_Smuggling.html

57. TX: Sheriff demands probe of incursions (Washington Times, 26 Jan 2006)

A Texas border sheriff yesterday demanded that the U.S. and Mexican governments investigate incursions into the United States by heavily armed drug escorts dressed in Mexican military uniforms "before someone gets killed." Zapata County Sheriff Sigifredo Gonzalez Jr., who heads the Texas Sheriff's Border Coalition, said a growing

number of suspected incursions and violence aimed at the area's law-enforcement officers is making the border "a pretty dangerous place."

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20060126-122846-6233r.htm>

58. Mexico Suggests GIs Aided Pot Smugglers (AP, 26 Jan 2006)

Mexico's top diplomat suggested Thursday that American soldiers disguised as Mexican troops may have been in the military-style Humvee filmed earlier this week protecting a marijuana shipment on the border. Foreign Secretary Luis Ernesto Derbez also told a news conference that U.S. soldiers had helped drug smugglers before. However, he offered no evidence. The U.S. Embassy in Mexico made no immediate comment on Derbez's claims. His comments came a day after U.S. Ambassador Tony Garza issued a statement asking the Mexican government to "fully investigate" the border incident.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtop.com/?nid=105&sid=679594>

59. Bolivian Leader's Stance on Cocaine Leaves U.S. Cautious (Fox News, 24 Jan 2006)

WASHINGTON - As Evo Morales takes control of Bolivia following his presidential inauguration on Sunday, some American officials are wondering whether the former coca farmer will roll back years of U.S. anti-drug efforts in the impoverished Andean nation.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,182559,00.html>

60. Britons held in Spain drug raids (BBC, 28 Jan 2006)

Ten Britons have been arrested in Spain on suspicion of drug smuggling as part of a major narcotics ring. The alleged ring leaders include a former policeman, ex-marine and ex-soldier, who used their expertise to evade capture, Spanish police said. The group, based in Costa del Sol, is accused of shipping drugs to Britain.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/4658410.stm

61. UK: Invasion Of The Cocaine Colombians - Gangs plan to grab control of drugs trade (Daily Record, 24 Jan 2006)

RUTHLESS Colombian drug barons have set up their own distribution network in Scotland. Now police chiefs fear they plan to flood the country with high quality cocaine direct from South America. And drugbusters from Bogota have flown to Glasgow for top-level talks with Scots cops. Drugs intelligence experts believe the Colombian crime syndicate may already have as many as a dozen members here. Authorities in South America became concerned when they realised that a number of drug barons had gone missing. They have tracked the gangsters down to Europe and discovered they were setting up bases here to establish their own cocaine network.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?V21C1198C>

62. Switzerland: Cocaine really is the drug of the rich (UPI, 29 Jan 2006)

ST. MORITZ, Switzerland - German researchers estimate that up to 1,400 lines of cocaine are snorted every day at the height of the ski season in St. Moritz, Switzerland. Researchers at the Institute for Biomedical and Pharmaceutical Research in Nuremberg, Germany, analyzed flat surfaces in lavatory cubicles at popular St. Moritz nightspots for cocaine traces, the Sunday Telegraph reported. They also tested sewer water for benzoylecgonine, a cocaine by-product easily detected in urine. During Christmas week, the researchers found a daily average of 140 grams of the drug in the sewer water. "If there are 10 lines of cocaine per gram, this would translate into about 1,400 lines of cocaine per day," said lead researcher Fritz Sorgel. "It is shocking. This is a very powerful method of testing because it is so sensitive."

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.upi.com/NewsTrack/view.php?StoryID=20060129-040724-2399r>

63. Czech Republic: Police detain cocaine dealers from South America (CeskeNoviny.cz, 27 Jan 2006)

PRAGUE- The police last week detained three organisers of smuggling of cocaine, imported to Europe from South America, detectives told journalists. Two Czechs and one Slovak headed a group of Czech and Slovak drug traffickers that operated in a number of countries. The traffickers were detained abroad, while cocaine with the street value of over 109 million crowns was confiscated in two police raids. "It has not been confirmed whether the quantity in question was destined for the Czech drug market," Bretislav Brejcha from the National Anti-Drug Centre said. The confiscated cocaine was enough to produce 5,460,000 doses, Brejcha said.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.ceskenoviny.cz/news/index_view.php?id=169531

64. Qatar: Nine face trial for hashish smuggling (Gulf Times, 24 Jan 2006)

NINE Iranians are facing trial in the Criminal Court for allegedly trying to smuggle 299kg of hashish and some 25kg of heroin through the sea. The nine, who appeared in the court yesterday, were caught at sea on July 10, 2004. Three of them, in their 40's, are believed to be the masterminds of the operation. The other six suspects told the court, through a Persian interpreter, that they didn't know their ship contained drugs and they thought it was heading towards the UAE coast. The defending lawyer told the judge that the seamen couldn't leave the vessel when they realised they had been tricked about the destination.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?P4083268C>

65. Australian man faces death in Indonesia for drug smuggling (Xinhuanet, 24 Jan 2006)

JAKARTA - Indonesian prosecutors on Tuesday demanded a death sentence for an Australian man for allegedly leading a group of eight compatriots who attempted to smuggle heroin from Bali island to their homeland. Myuran Sukumaran, 24, the defendant, is accused of "leading an international drug syndicate," prosecutor David Adjie told the district court in Denpasar, capital of Bali province. "There are no mitigating factors," he said in the televised court hearing. The suspects, dubbed the "Bali

nine," are being tried separately on the resort island. Earlier on Monday, prosecutors recommended a life jail sentence for Scott Anthony Rush, 20, who became the first suspect to get the prosecution demand.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2006-01/24/content_4093460.htm

CYBERTHREAT & THEFT

66. Experts: Countries make dangerous cyber adversaries (FCW, 27 Jan 2006)

When other countries launch cyberattacks, the United States should expect to see more robust ways to crack systems and more dangerous methods to manipulate them, two cybersecurity experts said yesterday. Countries have many resources and can attack at least as effectively as independent cybercriminals can, said Matthew Devost, president and chief executive officer of the Terrorism Research Center. China, North Korea and Russia already use cyberattacks to advance their interests, Devost said, speaking on a panel at the Black Hat Federal conference in Arlington, Va. Cyberattacks from countries can be difficult to investigate because analysts may not be able to tell if a given country is launching the attack or if other organizations are attacking through the country's resources, he said.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fcw.com/article92121-01-27-06-Web>

67. Hackers steal credit card info from R.I. Web site (FCW, 27 Jan 2006)

Russian hackers broke into a Rhode Island government Web site and allegedly stole credit card data from individuals who have done business online with state agencies. The story was first reported by The Providence Journal this morning and comes two days after state and local government officials released national surveys indicating they need more cybersecurity guidance and help in strengthening their systems. The newspaper reported that the hackers boasted two weeks ago on a Russian-language Web site that they broke into <http://www.RI.gov> and stole credit card information for as many as 53,000 transactions.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fcw.com/article92132-01-27-06-Web>

TECHNOLOGY

68. Retailer Target Branches Out Into Police Work (Washington Post, 29 Jan 2006)

When arson investigators in Houston needed help restoring a damaged surveillance tape to identify suspects in a fatal fire, they turned first to local experts and then to NASA. With no luck there, investigators appealed to the owner of one of the most advanced crime labs in the country: Target Corp. Target experts fixed the tape and Houston authorities arrested their suspects, who were convicted. It was all in a day's work for Target in its large and growing role as a high-tech partner to law enforcement agencies. In the past few years, the retailer has taken a lead role in teaching government agencies how to fight crime by applying state-of-the-art technology used in its 1,400 stores. Target's effort has touched local, state, federal and international agencies.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?T2F141D8C>

69. US congressman takes Google to task on China (FinancialTimes.com, 25 Jan 2006)

Google will be called to task in Washington next month following a controversial decision by the internet search engine to launch a China-based version of its website that will censor results to avoid angering the country's Communist government. The decision by Chris Smith, a Republican congressman from New Jersey who chairs a House subcommittee on Human Rights, to call for a February 16 hearing to examine the operating procedures of US internet companies in China, represents the first signs of what could become a serious backlash against Google and other internet companies in Washington that are perceived as capitulating to the Chinese government. Mr Smith on Wednesday accused Google of "collaborating .. with persecutors" who imprison and torture Chinese citizens "in the service of truth".

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://news.ft.com/cms/s/e3f999fe-8dfc-11da-8fda-0000779e2340.html>

70. Base-closing recommendations influenced by technology advances (GovExec.com, By Daniel Pulliam, 25 Jan 2006)

Advances in information technology influenced the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission's recommendations to close 22 major military facilities and realign another 33, said Anthony Principi, the chairman of the panel, last week. The base-closing process is creating both opportunities and challenges for the IT community, Principi said in a speech at a conference hosted by the Information Technology Association of America, an Arlington, Va.-based trade group. "Vast leaps in information technology in the areas of intelligence, surveillance, command and control as well as precise kinetic and nonkinetic weapons systems are dramatically reshaping warfare," Principi said. "That in turn served as the basis for resizing our military infrastructure."

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33199&dcn=e_ndw

71. HS3 Unveils Sat-Based Security Surveillance System For Oil & Gas Industry (SPX, 24 Jan 2006)

Denver CO - HS3 Technologies is pleased to introduce its proprietary, cost-effective satellite-based CCTV security surveillance and monitoring system for remote rural Oil & Gas installations. The HS3 system is ideal for remote pipelines and oil well installations that have long gone unprotected due to their cost prohibitive nature. According to the US Department of the Interior, "Our country's 2.1 billion barrels of produced oil came from nearly 555,000 individual oil wells. The 19.6 trillion cubic feet of natural gas produced in the U.S. came from slightly more than 307,000 wells. That's a total of over 860,000 wells spread across our nation pumping out the oil and gas that the U.S. needs to power its economy." The current US demand for oil and gas to fuel our economy and tight production supplies, as experience by the recent Gulf Coast Hurricane Season, have exposed our vulnerability to any supply disruptions.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?E20F2298C>

RESOURCES

72. Treasury releases DVD on identity theft (FCW, 26 Jan 2006)

The Treasury Department today released a DVD that informs consumers about identity theft, how to protect themselves against it and what to do if they fall victim. Viewers see how a typical identity theft victim resolves the situation by working with law enforcement officials, credit reporting agencies and financial institutions. The DVD, entitled "Identity Theft: Outsmarting the Crooks," features a resource library of downloadable materials, including sample forms and letters that victims can use in reporting the crime and collecting evidence.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fcw.com/article92115-01-26-06-Web>

73. Tutorial: All About Hazardous Materials Storage (Author: TrainingOnLine.com, Jan 2006 Issue)

We all know how important it is to take precautions when working with hazardous materials. But we may not always recognize that it's equally important to maintain the same high level of safety when these materials are in storage.

Even when hazardous materials are out of sight in containers, they should never be out of mind. If they're stored properly, these substances shouldn't cause problems. But unless we're all aware of what safe storage means, and how to protect ourselves in a storage area, we run the risk of accidents. And we can't afford to take that risk with hazardous materials. So today we're going to discuss the basics of safe hazardous materials storage and the precautions we should follow when we're in those areas. We'll also look more closely at some specific high-risk substances so that you can better understand why we store these materials as we do.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has detailed rules for the location and construction of rooms or buildings that contain these substances, including explanations of what can't be stored with different types of hazardous materials. As you realize that every aspect of storage room design has a reason and purpose, you'll be better able to help us see to it that those storage areas – and the substances stored in them – are kept safe.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.reliableplant.com/article.asp?articleid=503>

OPPORTUNITIES

74. DHS seeks location-tracking technology (FCW, 26 Jan 2006)

Homeland Security Department officials are currently evaluating white papers on technology that could help locate, for example, firefighters and other emergency responders in high-rise buildings. The Homeland Security Advanced Research Projects Agency (HSARPA) issued a broad agency announcement (BAA) last November that

sought 22 different prototype technologies, including tracking capability, for emergency responders for various uses. In that HSARPA solicitation – called the Rapid Technology Application Program – an Advanced 3-D Locator System would help accurately track and pinpoint first responders in threatened or collapsed buildings or in underground facilities.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fcw.com/article92117-01-26-06-Web>

EVENTS

75. 2006 Information Security Trends – 31 Jan Georgia

On January 31st, join the Technology Association of Georgia for a lively meeting where they will discuss the current trends in information security. Learn what to expect and how the newest security technologies are addressing the growing business need to protect the organization's most vital information assets.

In 2005, the Internet worm, Zotob, infected computers at media companies like CNN and financial behemoths like Visa. Organizations also experienced an increase in email nuisances, spam, spyware and phishing. Thanks to hackers, some of the largest corporations, including financial services giant Citigroup and media powerhouse Time Warner, had sensitive data swiped from their secure databases. Even the maker of EnCase forensics software, Guidance Software, had hackers who got away with approximately 3,800 credit card numbers and the accompanying 3-digit Card Value Verification (CVV) numbers. What will does this tell us about what we will experience in 2006?

Our panelists include a cyber security investigator, security researcher and product developer, leading security solutions provider. During the meeting we will discuss how regulatory pressures (HIPAA / Sarbanes-Oxley / CA-SB1386 / GLBA / VISA) are impacting the security solutions that are being deployed. We will also discuss what 2006 holds for eliminating unproductive or offensive spam, protecting wireless networks, securing IP Telephony, keeping Instant Messaging (IM) and email confidential, Mobile computing security challenges (such as handheld computers, Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), Blackberrys and Smart Phones) and what to expect in 2006 in the way of malware, spyware, computer viruses and worms.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?W14123D8C>

FULL REPORTS

76. Mexico-U.S. Discussions Continue on Illegal Immigration Problem (Dept. of State, 25 Jan 2006)

Washington -- The problem of illegal immigration from Mexico into the United States continues to be a topic of discussion between the two countries, says U.S. State Department spokesman Sean McCormack.

Briefing reporters January 25, McCormack said the United States has worked for "some time" with the Mexican government on preventing illegal entry from Mexico into America. President Bush, he added, "has made his views clear on these issues in terms of trying to deal with this question of [illegal] immigration."

The United States and Mexico signed a border partnership agreement in March 2002. That agreement, the White House said, was designed "to build a smart border for the 21st century -- one that better secures our borders while also speeding the free flow of people and commerce." (See [fact sheet](#).)

McCormack was asked at the January 25 briefing about reports that the Mexican government is issuing maps to Mexicans showing dangerous areas to avoid when crossing into the United States. McCormack replied that "we've seen these reports and we're trying to verify them." The spokesman said no government, including the Mexican government, "should facilitate or encourage its citizens to try to enter the United States outside established legal procedures."

McCormack added that every government around the world "should expect the United States is going to take whatever steps it deems necessary to protect its own borders and to protect" its sovereignty and uphold U.S. laws.

Asked to comment on reports that men in Mexican military uniforms had crossed over the U.S. border into Texas on January 24, McCormack said the U.S. Department of Homeland Security had been apprised of this incident and was investigating the reports. The United States, McCormack said, has communicated at the diplomatic level with Mexico's government on the matter "to request that they look into" the incident.

The spokesman said reports of "these kind of incursions" are a "source of concern." He added: "I would expect that the [U.S.] Department of Homeland Security would look into each and every one of these [incursions]. I know that they would be concerned by these reports."

McCormack said the Department of Homeland Security, not the State Department, is investigating the matter because it is the federal agency responsible for monitoring the U.S. border.

News reports quoted U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff as saying January 18 that claims of Mexican soldiers frequently crossing into the United States were overblown. He described many of those incursions as innocent mistakes.

"I think to create the image that somehow there is a deliberate effort by the Mexican military to cross the border would be to traffic in scare tactics," Chertoff said. "We have a good relationship with the Mexicans and I think treating this as an alarmist issue that suggests we're in danger of some significant overreaching is not accurate and not helpful."

The reports also quoted Mexican officials as saying that the men in Mexican military-style uniforms seen in Texas were drug smugglers, not Mexican soldiers.

See more information on U.S. policy, see [Mexico](#).

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

77. U.S. Uncovers Large Drug Tunnel at California-Mexico Border (By Eric Green, Washington File Staff Writer, 26 Jan 2006)

Washington - U.S. law authorities continue to investigate what they believe is one of the largest and most sophisticated tunnels ever discovered along the international border between Tijuana, Mexico, and the California community of Otay Mesa near the city of San Diego.

In a January 26 statement, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency said discovery of the tunnel was confirmed the previous night by a U.S. task force composed of agents from ICE, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Customs and Border Protection Border Patrol. ICE is the investigative arm of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Authorities believe the passageway originates under a warehouse about 138 meters south of the U.S.-Mexico border in Tijuana and surfaces about 800 meters north of the border in a warehouse in Otay Mesa.

ICE said the tunnel is made of concrete, and its passageway had electricity and ventilation. According to ICE, the tunnel is believed to be about 1.1 kilometers long. News reports said the tunnel bore the telltale signs of Mexican drug cartels seeking to move illegal drugs across the border into the United States.

Based on leads provided by the U.S. task force, ICE said Mexican police obtained a warrant to search the warehouse in Tijuana, where they eventually found more than two tons of marijuana, stacked in bales.

The United States and Mexico signed a border partnership agreement in March 2002, designed, the White House said, "to build a smart border for the 21st century -- one that better secures our borders while also speeding the free flow of people and commerce."

The agreement aims to protect citizens of both the United States and Mexico from terrorism, illegal drugs and other dangers; it also aims to facilitate and expedite legitimate cross-border travel and commerce, and to allow the two governments to determine who crosses the borders. (See fact sheet.)

The U.S. task force is using an array of high-tech equipment and intelligence information to pinpoint the locations of underground passageways along the U.S.-Mexico border region. Since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks against the United States, U.S.

authorities have discovered more than 20 cross-border tunnels along the U.S.-Mexico border in California and Arizona, said ICE.

Michael Unzueta, special agent-in-charge for ICE investigations in San Diego, said the tunnels pose a threat to national security "whether they are designed to smuggle drugs, people, weapons or other contraband." He added that ICE is committed to working with its law enforcement partners in the United States and elsewhere "to dismantle the tunnels and the criminal organizations behind them."

For more information on U.S. policies, see Mexico.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

78. U.S. Ambassador Asks Mexico To Probe Incident on Texas Border - Antonio Garza says incident illustrates danger facing border agents (By Eric Green, Washington File Staff Writer, 27 Jan 2006)

Washington - U.S. Ambassador to Mexico Antonio Garza has asked the Mexican government to investigate a January 23 incident in which people dressed in Mexican military uniforms "apparently intervened to prevent a drug shipment from being intercepted" by U.S. authorities in Texas.

In a strongly worded statement January 25, Garza said he sent a diplomatic note to the Mexican government on the matter "because this type of incident is indicative of the danger faced by our law enforcement officers daily" along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Garza said the individuals in military uniforms were carrying "military-style weapons and using military vehicles."

U.S. State Department spokesman Sean McCormack also commented January 25 on reports that men in Mexican military uniforms had crossed over the U.S. border into Texas. McCormack said the U.S. Department of Homeland Security had been apprised of this incident and was investigating the reports.

The spokesman said reports of "these kind of incursions" are a "source of concern." He added: "I would expect that the [U.S.] Department of Homeland Security would look into each and every one of these [incursions]. I know that they would be concerned by these reports." (See [related article](#).)

The Voice of America reported January 26 that the incident occurred in a remote area of west Texas, in Hudspeth County, about 100 kilometers east of the city of El Paso.

A note released January 26 by the Mexican government quoted Mexican Foreign Relations Secretary Luis Ernesto Derbez as saying, with regard to the suspicious individuals in Hudspeth County, that "we do not know whether they are Mexican or U.S.

citizens." Derbez has suggested that the individuals could have been U.S. drug criminals disguised as Mexican troops.

Garza, the U.S. envoy, said that in the last several weeks, violence in the border region has increased "markedly." Garza said he soon will deliver a second diplomatic note to Mexico "in which we express our concern about the increased violence" in the Mexican city of Nuevo Laredo "and several incidents in which our Border Patrol agents have been attacked along the [U.S.-Mexico] border."

Garza said the murder rate in Nuevo Laredo has "skyrocketed" in January, with the city recording 20 homicides so far during the month. He added that the U.S. Border Patrol in Laredo, Texas, has seen four separate incidents within the previous 30 days in which U.S. agents came under gunfire from across the Rio Grande River.

A shootout in the center of Nuevo Laredo January 23 was "reminiscent of the street battles that plagued" the city in 2005, "and caused me to make the difficult decision of [temporarily] closing" the U.S. consulate in Nuevo Laredo, said Garza.

Garza urged the Mexican government "to take this elevated violence seriously." Previously, he said, "there has been a tendency to focus on public relations instead of public security."

The ambassador said he frequently has discussed with Mexican officials our "co-responsibility" for the security and welfare of the border communities.

But Garza said the continuing flow of migrants illegally entering the United States from Mexico, the "increasing attacks against U.S. law enforcement officials from the Mexican side of the border, the public Mexican rhetoric describing U.S. efforts to control its border as 'racist,' and efforts by Mexico to promote regional opposition to measures under consideration in the U.S. Congress only serve to further polarize the debate on immigration and undermine the efforts of those who seek viable solutions to illegal immigration and border security."

Garza said the recent violence along the U.S.-Mexico border highlights the need "for increased [law] enforcement efforts by the United States and serves to bolster the arguments of those who seek the creation of physical barriers along our border."

He added that it makes "recent assertions that the United States is somehow exaggerating the problems along our border all the more untenable, and highlights the inability of the Mexican government to police its own communities south of the border."

Garza said he is "hopeful" that the U.S. and Mexican governments "can face this current challenge with resolve and focus."

Garza's [statement](#) is available on the Web site of the U.S. Embassy in Mexico.

The United States and Mexico signed a border partnership agreement in March 2002. That agreement, the White House said, was designed "to build a smart border for the 21st century -- one that better secures our borders while also speeding the free flow of people and commerce." (See [fact sheet](#).)

For more information on U.S. policy toward Mexico, see [Mexico](#).

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

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