
CABLE Gram
Collecting and Broadcasting for Law Enforcement
Subscription information available at www.cablegram.org
Publisher, Zhi Hamby-Nye

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CABLE Gram Volume 4 Issue 5

30 January 2007 CABLE Gram™

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Take care,

Zhi Hamby-Nye, Editor

Henry Ziegler, Associate Editor

Electronic Distribution provided by Richard Forno and Bill Feinbloom of G2-Forward

The CABLE Gram is a weekly publication, distributed in PDF format and is currently included as a benefit of membership in the OPSEC Professionals Society and the National Military Intelligence Association.

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

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

FEDERAL

1. Military Leaders Fear Buildup In Iraq Could Leave Homeland Defense Short (AP, 25 Jan 2007)

WASHINGTON U-S military leaders say a buildup of troops in Iraq could hamper efforts to respond to crises at home. The head of the National Guard says his troops don't have enough equipment to deal with natural or manmade disasters at home. He says he's not comfortable with "accepting low readiness." The U-S army chief says the military is big and strong enough to respond to any crisis - but the response may be slower and more risky.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wric.com/Global/story.asp?S=5986657>

2. Justice Found Unprepared For Crises (Washington Times, 27 Jan 2007)

The Justice Department, hampered by budget shortfalls and high staff turnover, is not prepared to respond quickly to terrorist attacks, hostage incidents, hurricanes and other natural disasters, said a report yesterday by the department's Office of Inspector General. "Rapid response to critical incidents ... is an essential function of the Department of Justice," Inspector General Glenn A. Fine said in the 70-page report. "Critical incident response is also an integral part of the department's strategy for combating terrorism." But, Mr. Fine said, the U.S. attorney's offices in the nation's 93 districts - all of whom are responsible for developing plans to respond to major incidents - are not adequately prepared to do so.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20070126-105220-1992r.htm>

3. Agency: Nuclear Plants Secure Enough If Attacked By Air (CNN, 29 Jan 2007)

WASHINGTON - Nuclear power plants will not be required to put up defenses against terrorist attacks from the air, according to a rule enacted Monday by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The commission specifically rejected ordering plants to erect so-called "beamhenge shields" - steel I-beams and cabling - that are designed to keep planes from hitting nuclear facilities. Critics slammed the commission's decision, saying it "jeopardizes the safety of millions." Dale Klein, chairman of the NRC, said that nuclear plants are already adequately defended against such attacks. "Nuclear power plants are

inherently robust structures that our studies show provide adequate protection in a hypothetical attack by an airplane," he said in a written statement. "The NRC has also taken actions that require nuclear power plant operators to be able to manage large fires or explosions - no matter what has caused them."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/01/29/reactor.security/index.html>

4. Nuclear Agency: Air Defenses Impractical (Washington Post, 30 Jan 2007)

Federal regulators plunged into an energy and national security controversy yesterday by ruling that the nation's 103 nuclear power plants do not need to protect themselves from potential attacks by terrorists using airplanes. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's 5-to-0 ruling was in response to a 2004 petition by the Committee to Bridge the Gap, a Los Angeles nonprofit group, that said nuclear plants should build shields made of steel I-beams and cabling or take other steps to prevent a release of radiation in case of an air attack. Eight state attorneys general backed the petition.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2hm7bl>

5. Congress Scrutinizes Los Alamos Security (AP, 30 Jan 2007)

WASHINGTON - Fed-up lawmakers on a House oversight committee said Tuesday they want to strip a federal nuclear agency of its security responsibilities and threatened to shut down Los Alamos National Laboratory to correct a decade of security lapses there. Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., said he has sat through nearly a decade of hearings in which the Energy Department and the northern New Mexico nuclear weapons lab have promised to fix security problems.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/23ln6p>

6. Bill Would Raise Taxes To Fund Security (Washington Times, 25 Jan 2007)

Legislation proposed by a key Democrat this week would raise taxes to fund billions in new Homeland Security spending on more police officers, interoperable communications equipment and 100 percent screening of cargo entering the United States. Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr., Delaware Democrat and chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said by rolling back President Bush's tax cuts that up to \$50 billion could be generated over five years for security improvements. "To protect our homeland, we have to radically reorder our priorities," said Mr. Biden, who did not specify which tax cut would be eliminated, only that it affected people who make more than \$1 million a year. Mr. Biden's Homeland Security Act of 2007 calls for "scanning" 100 percent of cargo containers, development of new "screening" technology and the hiring of 50,000 new police officers and 1,000 FBI agents.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://washingtontimes.com/national/20070124-110504-7152r.htm>

7. GAO to DHS: Connect Traveler Screening Programs (Washington Technology, 25 Jan 2007)

The Homeland Security Department needs to find better ways to integrate its domestic and international airline passenger screening programs, according to a new report from the Government Accountability Office. The Transportation Security Administration and the commercial airlines are responsible for prescreening domestic airline passengers against terrorist watch lists, while the Customs and Border Protection bureau performs prescreening of international travelers. "We have recently recommended that DHS make key policy and technical decisions necessary to more fully coordinate CBP's international prescreening program with TSA's prospective domestic prescreening program," the GAO report states. The [120-page](#) report reviews progress in enhancing protections for aviation and border security, with a goal of examining those areas and systems penetrated by the Sept. 11 attackers. It provides an update on activity related to several DHS programs, including the U.S. Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology system for recording entries of visitors.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.washingtontechnology.com/news/1_1/daily_news/30032-1.html

8. FBI Reform Efforts Come Under Senate Scrutiny (Reuters, 25 Jan 2007)

WASHINGTON - The FBI's efforts to transform itself into an intelligence agency to fight terrorism have been disturbingly slow and could falter unless Congress agrees to a new injection of funds, lawmakers said on Thursday. Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman John Rockefeller said FBI reforms appeared slow in several areas and said the agency is still dominated by a law enforcement mind set. "I'm troubled that more than five years after 9/11 that the FBI appears to just be beginning to make some of those reforms," Rockefeller, a West Virginia Democrat, told FBI Deputy Director John Pistole at a committee hearing.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/yrf27s>

9. In Exchange for Records, Fewer Immigration Raids (Washington Post, 29 Jan 2007)

Over the past seven months, Bush administration officials have quietly toured the country, trying to persuade businesses that rely heavily on immigrant labor to join a little-known program that would spare them from embarrassing federal raids if they voluntarily handed over their workers' documents so the government can scan them for fraudulent information. Officials at the Department of Homeland Security have asked companies to join the ICE Mutual Agreement Between Government and Employers program, known as IMAGE, operated by the department's Immigrations and Customs Enforcement division. It calls on businesses to submit all I-9 employee eligibility verification forms to ICE for an audit and to "ensure the accuracy of their wage reporting" by verifying workers' Social Security numbers, according to a description of the program.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2>

10. Rockefeller Examines State of Federal, State Information Sharing; Jay Holds Hearing on Intelligence Reform with Input from WV Homeland Security Advisor (HNN, 28 Jan 2007)

Washington, DC – Sen. Jay Rockefeller, Chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, held an open hearing Jan. 25, 2007, to examine whether reforms included in the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 are helping to coordinate homeland security efforts among federal, state, and local governments. The hearing focused specifically on how the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and state and local agencies are sharing intelligence and coordinating counterterrorism efforts. “Since 2004, we have made vast improvements in the Intelligence Community through some of the most sweeping changes we’ve seen in decades,” said Rockefeller. “Yet, we need to have a better understanding of what has been accomplished, what remains to be done, and what changes to the law are warranted in light of the experience of the past two years.” “A significant part of this is determining whether state and local agencies - in their information gathering efforts - are treated as equal partners by federal agencies,” Rockefeller added.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.huntingtonnews.net/state/070128-staff-jay.html>

11. Group Attempting to Simplify Byzantine Terror-Alert System (Washington Post, 24 Jan 2007)

Inside an unmarked, secured office near the White House, intelligence officials, lawyers and police work to close a gaping hole in the nation's counterterrorism system: the failure of people in the government to communicate with one another. The Sept. 11 commission report singled out official resistance to sharing information as a key reason the government failed to thwart the 2001 terrorist attacks. In response, Congress authorized the president to create the group now based near his office, known as the "information-sharing environment" (ISE) program. Its goal is to create a system for moving terrorism-related information among officials - be it the president or a small-town mayor - quickly and securely. In coming days, the group will send the president its recommendations for taming an explosion of "sensitive but unclassified" (SBU) documents. These reports, papers and memos - not classified but not meant for public eyes - bear "markers": from the basic "For Official Use Only" or "Trade Secret" to the mind-bending "Information Related to a Continuity of Operations Plan." So far, the ISE has collected 108 markers, and McNamara says more probably exist. Each marker dictates the rules for handling, distributing and storing the document that bears it. Confusing things further, the rules vary by agency, even for the same marker.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/ys8pnr>

12. TSA Awards Lockheed Martin the Transportation Worker Identification Credential Program (PRNewswire, 29 Jan 2007)

ROCKVILLE, Md. - The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) selected a team led by Lockheed Martin to provide services for the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) Phase IV program under a task order-based contracting vehicle. Developed in response to vulnerabilities within the nation's transportation system, the TWIC program involves the rapid, nationwide deployment of biometric identification cards. Under the awarded task order, Lockheed Martin will enroll and credential approximately 750,000 maritime workers at the nation's ports within 16 months, with 1.1

million port worker enrollments anticipated by TSA over the five-year contract period of performance. The TWIC Phase IV program may be expanded beyond the port community to other modes of transportation with a maximum of 6 million credentials to be issued under the Phase IV contract. Workers enrolled through this initial task order will be charged a fee of \$137.25.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://sev.prnewswire.com/aerospace-defense/20070129/DCM06429012007-1.html>

13. L-3 Communications Receives Contract Award for Talon™ by the U.S.

Department of Homeland Security (Business Wire, 30 Jan 2007)

NEW YORK - L-3 Communications (NYSE: LLL) announced today that its Communication Systems-East (L-3 CS-East) division, a leading supplier of secure government communication products and systems, has received a sole source contract award from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Transportation Security Administration (TSA) for 250 of its Talon™ (KOV-26) in-line network encryptors. TSA will deploy these units for testing at undisclosed airports in the United States. Recently certified by the National Security Agency (NSA) for Type 1 communications, Talon is L-3 CS-East's latest innovation for securing internet protocol (IP) data transmissions. Talon, a PCMCIA form factor encryptor, which supports broadband data rates and weighs just 3 ounces, will secure a user's data up to Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information (TS/SCI) using High Assurance IP Encryption Interoperability Specification (HAIPE™ IS) compatible protocol.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2bfw6e>

14. Dutch man faces terror trial in U.S. (Washington Times, 30 Jan 2007)

An Iraqi-born Dutch citizen pleaded not guilty yesterday in federal court in Washington to charges of conspiring with insurgents to attack U.S. military personnel in Iraq - the first U.S. criminal prosecution arising from terrorist activities in Iraq. Wesam al-Delaema, 33, extradited from the Netherlands on Saturday, had been sought by the U.S. government since 2003, when he and other members of the "Mujahideen from Fallujah" videotaped themselves planting explosives along an Iraqi road used by U.S. troops. The videotape, which was widely shown on Arabic TV stations, was seized by Dutch police who raided Mr. al-Delaema's house in Amersfoort in May 2005 following a tip from U.S. authorities.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20070130-122433-4467r.htm>

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS

15. AL: Houston men charged with human smuggling through Alabama (KTEN Local News, 30 Jan 2007)

MOBILE, Ala. Two Texas men are charged with smuggling undocumented workers through Alabama. A federal grand jury in Mobile, Alabama, indicted 32-year-old Santiago Ramirez-Godoy and 47-year-old Luciano Alvarez-Meraz, both of Houston. They're charged with unlawful transportation of an illegal alien. The charges stem from a

traffic stop made by U-S Customs agents one week ago today on Interstate Ten in Mobile County. Agents say the van contained 16 passengers, along with the two suspects. All passengers, except a Mexican citizen, were sent to an immigration center for likely deportation.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.kten.com/Global/story.asp?S=6011170>

16. AZ: Officials fear new wave of smuggling-related violence - More border security, crackdowns add risk (The Arizona Republic, 29 Jan 2007)

Federal immigration officials worry that a Jan. 15 Phoenix murder could be the start of a new wave of smuggling-related violence. Lucrative smuggling networks are being squeezed by tighter border security and law enforcement crackdowns. "It's an unfortunate byproduct of our efforts," said Alonzo Peña, head of Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Arizona. Because of tighter border security, more migrants are turning to smugglers to help guide them into the U.S. illegally. Smugglers also are charging more because of the increased risks, making the practice more profitable and violent. Smugglers, "are going to protect their profits," Peña said. In the wake of the 2003 I-10 killings, federal, state and local law enforcement officials launched a series of crackdowns aimed at dismantling smuggling organizations and combating smuggling-related violence.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/0129shootingcontext.html>

17. CA: Suspected ID Theft Ring Leader Arrested (KCRA, 29 Jan 2007)

SACRAMENTO, Calif. - A man investigators described as the suspected leader of an identity theft ring with crimes dating back more than a decade has been arrested. Tien Nguyen was arrested Friday by the Placer County Sheriff's Department and the U.S. Secret Service at his home in Sacramento. Prosecutor said they believe Nguyen organized a large identity theft ring that stole personal credit card information using phishing scams. Authorities said more than 1,000 victims have already come and even more are expected.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.kcra.com/news/10873806/detail.html>

18. CA: Laws govern disposal of hazardous materials (The Friday Flyer, 26 Jan 2007)

A state law that went into effect last year requires California residents to sort even more of their household trash for special disposal. The law aims to stop the flow of hazardous materials such as lead, mercury and other heavy metals into California landfills. Many of the items on the list are used regularly in homes everyday and include common batteries (AA, AAA, C and D cells, as well as button batteries used in watches and hearing aids) which contain cadmium and corrosive chemicals; electronic devices such as cellular and landline phones, radios, microwaves, computer hard drives, printers, TV and computer monitors and VCRs, all which contain heavy metals including lead, cadmium, copper and chromium; and mercury-containing items including fluorescent tubes and bulbs, thermostats, thermometers, musical greeting cards, athletic shoes with flashing lights manufactured before 1997 and pilot-light sensors.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.thefridayflyer.com/FF-2007-1-26/FFS-6060.htm>

19. FL: Davie bioterrorism center offers disaster training to health care workers (South Florida Sun-Sentinel, 25 Jan 2007)

The Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness at Nova Southeastern University hosted an open house to inform interested residents and students about its resources. The center's mission is to educate and train health care professionals so that Floridians will respond in an organized manner in the event of a major disaster such as a terrorist attack or major hurricane, said Cecilia Rokusek, project manager for the center. The center offers free training courses, in person and via the Internet, for any health care community members such as emergency room staff, first responders, nurses, pharmacists and physicians, Rokusek said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

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

20. FL: Super Bowl security tightens in Miami (The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 30 Jan 2007)

Miami - Federal and local law enforcement officials have been planning for security at Super Bowl XLI for more than two years and noted that it is being treated as a "Level 1 National Security" event. "There has not been a single specific threat," said Robert Parker, director of the Miami-Dade Police Department, the lead agency. Julie Torres, a special agent with Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, was appointed by the Department of Homeland Security as the federal coordinator. About 3,000 additional personnel and 30 private security experts were hired to help carry out the plan, according to Milton Ahlerich, the NFL's vice president of security.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.ajc.com/sports/content/sports/falcons/stories/2007/01/29/0130supernotes.html>

21. IL: Smuggling sting snares O'Hare worker (Chicago Tribune, 29 Jan 2007)

An employee at O'Hare International Airport was charged Monday with pocketing cash payoffs to help an undercover federal agent bypass security and smuggle nearly \$400,000 in U.S. currency on flights overseas. Riad Skaff, who had unlimited access at O'Hare's international terminal, was arrested Sunday evening as he worked there for a subcontractor of Air France, Assistant U.S. Atty. Charles Ex said. At a bond hearing Monday in U.S. District Court, Ex called Skaff's actions a serious breach of security at O'Hare in seeking to have him incarcerated at home in an electronic-monitoring program.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/yopcwz>

22. IA: Large companies make agreement with state on disaster plan (Radio Iowa, 29 Jan 2007)

Iowa's 20 largest companies have inked an agreement with state officials and a national group that draws up disaster-preparedness plans. Max Phillips, the president of Qwest's Iowa operations, is also president of the Iowa Business Council which represents Iowa's largest employers. Phillips says the job of a business leader has changed significantly

during the past few years. "Today, much time and many resources are devoted to making sure the operations of the business - its products or services and its employees - are safe," Phillips says. "These are lessons that floods and tornadoes and terrorists have taught us and such preparations are vital. Preparations in isolation are weak." The non-profit "Business Executives for National Security" is headed by retired General Charles Boyd, who happens to be a native of Rockwell City, Iowa. The "Safeguard Iowa" project will be similar to efforts in Kansas City, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Georgia and Massachusetts and Boyd says he's extremely optimistic about Iowa joining that list.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2b8eve>

23. KS: Agroterrorism a hot topic at KCA convention (The Hutchinson News, 28 Jan 2007)

Feedlot owners in Kansas need to combine awareness and technology to stay ahead of the threat of agroterrorism, a consulting firm president said Saturday. Though the threat is not new, it - and prevention - should be at the front of feedlot owners' minds, Dale Williams told the Kansas Cattlemen's Association at its annual convention in Hutchinson. "These radical groups, they're out there. They're looking to hurt us, economically or physically," said Williams, president and CEO of Garden City-based Williams Consulting. He cited the possible vulnerability of liquid feed tanker trucks and sprawling feedlots. "You need to know what's coming into your yard," Williams said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.hutchnews.com/news/regional/stories/Agroterror012807.shtml>

24. KS: Police department hosts WMD exercises (Leavenworth Times, 23 Jan 2007)

Wearing gas masks and other protective gear, more than 30 police officers from the Kansas City area carried rifles as they searched a Leavenworth building Thursday afternoon for gunmen, hostages and potential weapons of mass destruction. Fortunately, the searches were only exercises for a regional class on WMD for tactical officers. The Leavenworth Police Department hosted the week-long class for members of the Kansas City Metropolitan Disaster Tactical Response Team.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.leavenworthtimes.com/articles/2007/01/23/news/news01.txt>

25. MA: Schools reassess security (Boston Globe, 25 Jan 2007)

Last week's fatal stabbing of a teenager at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School has prompted school administrators across the region south of Boston to reevaluate safety and security measures, a survey of about a dozen schools shows. Many administrators are meeting this week with staff to assess procedures and see what changes might be needed. The Globe survey revealed a wide gap in implementation of security practices. Some districts have security officers, surveillance cameras, and ways to anonymously report a threat. Others rely on creating a culture that nurtures open communication between students and teachers.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2007/01/25/schools_reassess_security/

26. NM: Former N.M. treasurer sentenced to 37 months in federal prison (AP, 24 Jan 2007)

ALBUQUERQUE - Former state Treasurer Robert Vigil was sentenced Wednesday to 37 months in federal prison. Vigil sat still at the defense table, studying a notebook, as U.S. District Judge James Browning imposed the sentence for his conviction on attempted extortion. Browning also placed Vigil on three years of supervised release after his prison term, and ordered the former treasurer to submit to DNA collection, as is required by any felony prisoner. Vigil, 53, also was ordered to pay a fine of about \$97,000. He will remain free for now, wearing an ankle monitoring bracelet, but must turn himself in within 60 days.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.lcsun-news.com/ci_5078505

27. NY: State technology office issues identity management guidelines (Washington Technology, 25 Jan 2007)

The New York State Office for Technology has issued a best practices guideline to help state agencies and local governments manage employee and citizen access to online applications and transactions. The NYS Trust Model establishes basic standards and processes that will govern the way identity credentials are managed and is intended to serve as a foundation for future identity and access management policies. The guidelines, which were a collaborative effort by New York Chief Information Officer Michael Mittleman and the New York State CIO Council, were issued to address the need for better information security. The guidelines are part of a larger governance framework that is still evolving, Mittleman told Washington Technology. The governance model, when completed, will address such issues as compliance review and dispute resolution.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.washingtontechnology.com/news/1_1/daily_news/30031-1.html

28. NY: 'Bootleg' Gas Ring Charged (NY Post, 25 Jan 2007)

Seven Brooklyn residents and four companies were indicted yesterday on charges they bootlegged 2,900 gallons of untaxed gas and diesel fuel into the city, state officials said yesterday. The scheme, according to the indictment, ran from March and December 2005 had the defendants conspiring to transport the fuel from storage tanks in New Jersey to New York gas stations, where it was sold. The indictment resulted from a three-year joint probe by the state Tax Department and the Attorney General's Organized Crime Task Force.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/ynt73h>

29. OR: Airport's baggage scanners ease travel (The Register-Guard, 27 Jan 2007)

New baggage scanning equipment at the Eugene Airport should make life easier and safer for air travelers and reduce the risk of injury to security workers, airport officials said Thursday. Four machines, valued at \$330,000 each, went into service in the airport lobby, in front of the ticket counters, last weekend and were shown to reporters Thursday. Eugene Airport and U.S. Transportation Security Administration officials said the new technology means screeners will open far fewer bags than before. advertisement The

machines, built by Reveal Imaging Technologies Inc. of Boston, can detect explosives in luggage as well as provide screeners with images of the contents if necessary, said Mike Irwin, the TSA's security director for Oregon.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/ynubno>

30. TX: Drill helps emergency providers prepare for what could happen (Fort Bend Herald, 29 Jan 2007)

"Decon Team, report to the staging area!" Those and other orders could be heard flying through the halls of OakBend Medical Center in Richmond last Tuesday and Wednesday as staff rushed to respond. Members of the hospital's decontamination team sped to the labor pool area on the first floor, where staff is to report in times of disaster, whether internal or external. The scene was actually one of many being played out in the greater Houston area as part of a regional Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) drill involving the 13 counties which are members of the Houston/Galveston Area Council. Under the auspices of the Governor's Division of Emergency Management, said OakBend Director of Emergency and Trauma Services Ted Rodriguez, the drill tested multi-jurisdictional WMD disaster response by fire, police, Emergency Medical Services, public works departments, hospitals and other entities throughout the area. In Fort Bend County, emergency personnel were scrambling to deal with three incidents. The first was a plane crash at Intercontinental Airport in Houston, where a fuel truck was struck. Shortly afterward, a plane crashed into Reliant Stadium in the midst of a Houston Texans football game, then a school bus crashed into a railroad tank car in Fort Bend County.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.herald-coaster.com/articles/2007/01/29/news/top_story/topstory.txt

31. TX: Dead birds, suspicious events mobilize ASPECT (Los Alamos Monitor, 30 Jan 2007)

Sixty birds, primarily pigeons, sparrows and grackles, were found at 3 a.m. lying dead in the streets around the Texas State Capital Building in Austin on Jan. 8. The alarming discovery sparked swift reaction from an elite multi-agency team to what was initially considered a potential homeland security threat. The Los Alamos National Laboratory team, headed by scientists Robert Kroutil and Ron Dolin, was notified that their data support would be required in order to respond to the suspicious bird deaths. Kroutil and Dolin work out of LANL's Bio-science B Division. They convened at TA-3, Building 562 during the event, Dolin said. Within minutes of the call, the ASPECT (Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology) aircraft was deployed. ASPECT's mission was to perform an air quality assessment and map the area looking for plumes that may have developed and to determine if a source, leak, or concentration could be located, Kroutil said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.lamonitor.com/articles/2007/01/25/headline_news/news02.txt

32. VA: Port ID Cards To Go Live Soon (The Virginian-Pilot, 27 Jan 2007)

NORFOLK - After years of delays, Hampton Roads port workers could be holding new federal identification cards as early as July, the Virginia Port Authority 's security

director said this week. Ed Merkle, the state-owned authority's top security official, said the port of Hampton Roads is one of the top 10 "priority ports" in the first group to receive the cards, known as the Transportation Worker Identification Credential. Nationwide, 750,000 longshoremen, truckers and mariners are expected to receive the cards, including an estimated 30,000 in Hampton Roads. The IDs are intended to make the country's ports more secure against terrorism by scrutinizing the backgrounds of port workers for crimes, immigration violations and other offenses. The cards, which will replace separate IDs issued by each of the country's 360 ports, will contain the holder's picture and will be embedded with computer chips to store the holder's fingerprints.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://content.hamptonroads.com/story.cfm?story=118315&ran=60960>

33. WA: Port of Seattle Expands Use of Send Word Now for Crisis and Security-Related Communication at Airport and Seaport (Market Wire, 30 Jan 2007)

NEW YORK, NY - Send Word Now, the leading provider of on-demand alerting and response services, today announced that the Port of Seattle has expanded its relationship with Send Word Now to encompass over 750 users. Initially provisioned last year for the executive crisis team, in 2007 the Port of Seattle will increase Send Word Now's alerting and response service to communicate with over 80 different groups within the airport and seaport -- including the Airport Communications Center, the Transportation Security Administration, airline representatives, fire and police. As a result of using Send Word Now, the Port of Seattle can reliably communicate with mobile users anytime, anywhere, in real-time, and respond with decisive action.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.marketwire.com/mw/release_html_b1?release_id=209114

34. WV: Son of W.Va. Gambling Kingpin Pleads Guilty (Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, 25 Jan 2007)

The son of a late Wheeling, W.Va., gangster pleaded guilty in federal court Wednesday for his role in a major gambling ring. Christopher Paul Hankish, 44, of Scott, was charged in November with conspiracy for his connection to a multimillion-dollar bookmaking operation headed by former video poker kingpin John "Duffy" Conley. State police and the state Attorney General's Office began looking into gambling activity involving Conley, formerly of the South Side, in February 2005. Wiretaps on several of Conley's cell phones last fall revealed a widespread gambling ring. An investigator with the Attorney General's Office testified last year in federal court that Conley's gambling operation involved a number of people associated with organized crime. He specifically named Hankish as one of those people.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/cityregion/s_490159.html

KEY PEOPLE

35. Thompson Says Sea Cargo Scanning Provision May Be Dropped (Port Security News.com, 29 Jan 2007)

Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-MS), Chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, said last week (January 24) that Senate opposition to a provision in the House-passed 9/11 legislation requiring 100 percent scanning of all incoming seaborne cargo containers likely means that the provision will not be included in a final conference report on the legislation. Thompson said that “with the exception of cargo screening, everything else seems to have significant opportunity.” He added that the screening provision would likely “have to be a stand-alone bill, rather than a broader bill.” Opponents to the provision in the House said that it would place an undue burden on industry and force the Homeland Security Department to deploy unproven technology at ports.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://portsecuritynews.com/news/templates/registered.asp?articleid=1389&zoneid=1>

36. Next pandemic is closer than you think (Albany Democrat-Herald, 28 Jan 2007)

What if you had to stay home for four to eight weeks. Every day. You couldn't go to work. Or church. Or to the grocery store. What if your daughter, who is away at college, became ill and you were told she had to stay at school, quarantined from other students and yourself? What if every bed in your local hospital, and the one 30 miles away, and the one 100 miles away, was filled nn for weeks? Will your family be able to function if - actually when - a flu pandemic strikes the United States? Those questions are on the mind of Larry Mullins, president and CEO of Samaritan Health Services every single day. Mullins' has a doctorate in health administration. His doctoral thesis focused on hospital preparedness in the event of a disaster or bioterrorism attack. He now delivers the pandemic message around the country.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.gazettetimes.com/articles/2007/01/28/news/community/1aaa02_pandemic.txt

37. CA: Bratton, Baca seek federal help to open terrorism academy (Los Angeles Times, 27 Jan 2007)

Los Angeles Police Chief William J. Bratton is heading to Washington, D.C., to pitch federal authorities on the creation of a national anti-terrorism academy. He will be joined by Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca, who has begun seeking local support for a separate tactical training center where officers could get hands-on experience in responding to terrorist threats. The two projects could make Southern California a national center for terrorism study, Bratton said Friday. Sheriff's Department representatives briefed their LAPD counterparts this week on creating a Southern California Regional Homeland Security and Emergency Operations Center at the Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base. The center would allow police, fire and medical personnel to hold exercises in mock villages or neighborhoods as well as a fake airline terminal, where chemical, biological and radiation attacks would be simulated.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/256tx6>

38. IL: Professor studying responses to food crises (News-Gazette, 29 Jan 2007)

Fresh spinach sold at some grocery stores turns out to be infected with E. Coli bacteria. So does lettuce a month later, followed by an outbreak linked to green onions mostly served at East Coast Taco Bells. A couple hundred people, two in Illinois, get sick, and

three deaths are confirmed nationally. Tragic, to be sure, but pretty long odds of being affected if you're one of 301 million-plus U.S. residents. All spinach, lettuce and onion producers and Taco Bell needed to do in order to stave off business declines during the outbreaks last fall was publicize those odds, right? Not so fast, say University of Illinois researchers who study how consumers react in such crisis situations. Those may or may not be more common than they used to be, but certainly, in our media-glutted age, they're more likely to be widely trumpeted. In studying the reaction of consumers to incidents of Mad Cow disease in cattle herds around the world, UI Agricultural Economics Professor Joost Pennings found that consumers take two basic tacks.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/23a2zd>

39. SC: Debra Engel Named Federal Security Director for Charleston (TSA, 29 Jan 2007)

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has named Debra Engel as the federal security director (FSD) for South Carolina's Charleston International, Hilton Head Island and Myrtle Beach International airports. "Debra is an outstanding asset to our agency," said Morris McGowan, TSA acting assistant administrator for Security Operations. "Her dedication to the Transportation Security Administration is apparent in her return to the FSD position in Charleston. She is well-versed in the specific needs of the airports in the region and her enthusiasm and commitment to the organization is a model for the team of TSA employees she leads." Engel returns to her role as FSD after leaving in April 2006 to work for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as district counsel for the Charleston District. Her previous tenure with TSA at Charleston began in August 2002.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://hospitality-1st.com/PressNews/TSA-012907.html>

GANG ACTIVITY

40. AZ: Fight Against Immigrant Smuggling Follows Money Trail (Washington Post, 26 Jan 2007)

PHOENIX - In 2001, Arizona state prosecutors trying to stem the growing tide of immigrant smuggling found a Western Union outlet in the border town of Douglas that was doling out more than \$91,000 a month - this in a community where the per capita income was barely \$10,000 a year. People across the country, prosecutors said, were sending money to the little Western Union shop in Douglas - and scores others like it in Arizona - to pay smugglers to sneak illegal immigrants into the United States. To fight back, Attorney General Terry Goddard employed a controversial technique known as a damming warrant to seize \$17 million in money transfers into hundreds of Western Union locations in Arizona, prosecute scores of immigrant smugglers and deport hundreds of people in a program he marvels at because of its "elegant simplicity."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/376zzs>

41. AZ: Federal judge gives life sentence to smuggling ring figure (KVOA, 24 Jan 2007)

PHOENIX - A man characterized as a leader of a vicious immigrant-smuggling ring that physically abused its clientele to assure ransoms has been sentenced to life in prison. Jesus Medina-Nevarez, 25, of Mazatlan in the Mexican state of Sinaloa, was sentenced Tuesday to life plus seven years by U.S. District Judge Roger G. Strand. A federal jury convicted Medina-Nevarez in October of conspiracy to take hostages, hostage-taking, conspiracy to harbor illegal aliens, harboring illegal aliens and possessing and using a firearm during a violent crime.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://kvoa.com/Global/story.asp?S=5986101>

42. CA: In Los Angeles, Antigang Efforts Start on the Street (New York Times, 29 Jan 2007)

LOS ANGELES - At twilight on Friday, in the heart of the territory of the latest notorious Los Angeles gang, a woman in a passing car calls out a tip to Officer Dan Robbins, sending him racing toward a corner and a man he believes is a member of the 204th Street gang. As Officer Robbins's black-and-white patrol car speeds forward, the man, Jose Covarrubias, 20, turns away and drops what appears to be a small pipe. "Come here! Get your hands up!" Officer Robbins of the Los Angeles Police Department shouts as he jumps out of the car and handcuffs Mr. Covarrubias, arresting him on suspicion of possessing drug paraphernalia, a methamphetamine pipe. "You arresting all the black people here on Harvard Boulevard, too?" Mr. Covarrubias asks, now seated on a curb, making plain the racial tension in this neighborhood, Harbor Gateway, that has commanded the city's attention.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/01/29/us/29gangs.html?th&emc=th>

43. CA: Cities look to help each other on gang violence (Inside Bay Area, 24 Jan 2007)

OAKLAND - A decade ago, there were 150 gang members in Oakland. Today, police say, the number has swelled to at least 1,500. And as membership has increased, so has gang-related violence in the city. One of the most tragic results of that violence is that 38 percent of the 148 homicides in Oakland last year were linked to Latino gang rivalries, as were scores of non-fatal shootings, police said. In 2005, there were nine confirmed gang-related killings. But Oakland isn't the only place with gang problems. Law enforcement, city officials and school administrators from around the state gathered Wednesday in Jack London Square to discuss the ever-growing problem at the inaugural meeting of California Cities Gang Prevention Network.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.insidebayarea.com/timesstar/localnews/ci_5080124

44. GA: Officials: Possible gang a serious threat (Online Athens, 28 Jan 2007)

An Athens "Bloods" gang might not have ties to the notorious West Coast gang with the same name, gangs experts say, but authorities still should be concerned about the group of thugs who brutally beat a teen this month. Athens-Clarke police continue to investigate the Jan. 13 attack, but officials said they haven't learned enough about the "Westside Bloods" to know if they are affiliated with the Los Angeles-based Bloods gang or how

deeply they are involved in crimes. But the fact that they took the Bloods' name shows this newly identified gang is up to no good, according to attorney Matt Karzen, a former gang prosecutor.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.onlineathens.com/stories/012907/news_20070129044.shtml

45. NV: Nicaraguan Member Of MS-13 Street Gang Ordered To Be Deported (All Headline News, 26 Jan 2007)

Las Vegas, NV - A Nicaraguan man, who is also an illegal alien and member of the infamous Mara Salvatrucha 13 (MS-13) street gang, was arrested along with another illegal alien from Mexico, on January 18, 2007 at Creech Air Force Base. Both men claimed to employees of the masonry company this is constructing avionics buildings at the base. An ICE statement from Washington reported that the MS-13 gang, based out of El Salvador, is "the most dangerous gang in the U. S." Newsweek, which also referred to the MS-13 gang as "the most dangerous gang in the U. S.," also stated that it is the most violent and fastest growing street gang, having approximately 10,000 members throughout 33 states. The Nicaraguan has also been linked to smuggling illegal aliens into the country and will be deported from the United States.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.allheadlinenews.com/articles/7006263697>

46. NY: Police Search Hells Angels' NYC Home (AP, 30 Jan 2007)

NEW YORK - Police helicopters circled overhead, sharpshooters were stationed on nearby roofs and officers were armed for a siege after a report that a woman might have been beaten at a Hells Angels Motorcycle Club. The confrontation in Manhattan's East Village ended after several hours with no violence and no arrests. The woman was found unconscious outside the motorcycle club's building late Sunday, police said. Roberta Shalady, 52, of Brooklyn, was hospitalized in serious condition with a head injury and bruising around the eyes, police said. After witnesses reported seeing the woman being thrown out of the clubhouse, police detectives aided by heavily armed Emergency Service Unit officers went to the club early Monday with a search warrant to look for evidence of an assault.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtopnews.com/?nid=104&sid=1047801>

47. TN: Pressure on cops to keep squeezing local gangs (Nashville City Paper, 30 Jan 2007)

Local police are expressing a cautious sense of optimism in the aftermath of a major racketeering indictment against 13 Nashville members of the MS-13 gang. Less than three weeks after the U.S. Attorney's Office in Nashville announced that a federal indictment had been unsealed against 13 members of the Salvadoran gang MS-13, members of the Metro Police gang unit that did much of the year-long investigation's heavy lifting said the bust was a major blow to the Nashville arm of the notoriously ruthless gang.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/yoaqzy>

48. TN: Former Gang Members Struggle To Find Jobs (Eyewitness News, 25 Jan 2007)

If you are a business owner, would you want to employ a criminal? Better yet, would you want to work with a former gang member. Some local leaders say gang members trying to open doors to better lives are being shut out. They say if Memphis wants to cut down on crime, more businesses need to start hiring people with checkered pasts. Some community leaders say there are many former gang members who would rather punch a time clock than lead a life of crime. However, but once those gang members send out resumes, employers throw them in the trash once they find out about their pasts.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

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

49. TX: MS-13 member accused of decapitating couple (KHOU, 30 Jan 2007)

An MS-13 gang member accused of cutting off the heads of his girlfriend's parents is in custody in Houston. In late September, FBI agents and Houston police were involved in a shootout with MS-13 gang members in a hotel parking lot on the city's southeast side. Our cameras were there that night. That night an FBI agent was wounded, but when it was all said and done, four gang members were apprehended and taken to jail.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.khou.com/news/local/crime/stories/khou070129_cd_ms13.3152e6c1.html

50. TX: Honduran gang member arrested in Houston (AP, 30 Jan 2007)

HOUSTON - A member of a notoriously violent gang who is suspected in the decapitation of his former in-laws in Honduras has been arrested in Texas on burglary and immigration charges, police said Tuesday. Albin Adalin Zelaya-Zelaya, 26, was arrested Saturday along with five other Hondurans on illegal immigration charges. Authorities said they believe the men have been involved in kidnapping of other illegal immigrants. Honduran authorities believe Zelaya-Zelaya killed his ex-wife's parents on Christmas Day and called him a person of interest in a 2004 bus shooting there that left 37 people dead, FBI Special Agent Shauna Dunlap said. Houston Police had a warrant for Zelaya-Zelaya's arrest on suspicion of burglary with the intent to commit aggravated assault at a Houston Travel Inn hotel room in September.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=local&id=4985421>

51. TX: Perry says troops to target smuggling hotspots (The Monitor, 25 Jan 2007)

McALLEN - The newest wave of National Guard troops scheduled to make their way to the border will be stationed at 44 drug and human smuggling hot spots, Gov. Rick Perry said on Wednesday. "Our efforts are not about apprehensions, but about busting up (criminal) organizations before they can even get into our neighborhoods," Perry said at a press conference at the McAllen Police Department. No funding has been set aside for Operation Wrangler, which began Tuesday, but Perry plans to ask the Legislature for \$100 million to fund similar operations for the next two years. Perry gave little new information during his visit to the Rio Grande Valley to plug the operation he announced statewide Monday.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/27nvz>

52. WI: Gangs tag their turf in La Vergne (KnowGangs.com, 30 Jan 2007)

LA VERGNE - Angelique Osteen moved to La Vergne in October in an attempt to get her three sons away from gang problems in south Nashville, but recently began rethinking the decision. About three weeks ago, her 15-year-old son, who attends La Vergne High was approached by a neighborhood girl asking him to join the Crips gang.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.knowgangs.com/news/jan07/0130_2.php

NARCO TRAFFICKING

53. CA: ON THE BORDER - Smuggling a whole lot of drugs a little at a time (San Francisco Gate,, 28 Jan 2007)

Tijuana - Salvador, a 22-year-old born in Los Angeles and raised on both sides of the border, started working as a "mule," or low-level smuggler, soon after his stepfather went to jail in San Diego for doing the same thing. "I'd buy a kilo of top notch Del Valle weed for \$500 from the dealers right here," said Salvador, who wouldn't give his last name because of his illegal activity. "I'd split it in half and seal it with my vacuum sealer. Over there I'd sell it myself for \$500 a pound. I'd double my money and get 3 ounces to smoke." Bilingual, bicultural residents of the border region are especially valuable to the drug cartels vying for control of Mexico's booming drug trade, said Veronica Baeza, director of the San Diego-Tijuana Border Initiative, a public health advocacy group.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/01/28/MNGCJNQHO01.DTL>

54. NJ: Suburban raids net 20 pounds of cocaine (Courier-Post, 26 Jan 2007)

Federal and state law enforcement officials seized at least 20 pounds of crack and powder cocaine and arrested 14 South Jersey residents during drug-trafficking raids Thursday, officials said. Those arrested were "the main players" in a drug trafficking organization connecting the South Jersey area and Arizona, the organization's source state, officials said. It often shuttled 20 kilograms (44 pounds) of drugs across the country for distribution in the area, New Jersey State Police Capt. Jeff Simpkins said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/26w7p8>

55. NC: Kittrell man pleads guilty to drug, immigrant smuggling charges (The Daily Dispatch, 27 Jan 2007)

A Kittrell man pleaded guilty in federal court in Dallas earlier this month to smuggling undocumented immigrants and marijuana. Daylon Ray Owens, 63, faces a minimum of five and a maximum of 60 years in prison for his crimes. He has already agreed to forfeit his tractor-trailer and may also be fined up to \$2.5 million. Owens, who has been in detention since the fall, will be sentenced on April 4. According to various sources, including a plea agreement signed by Owens, the trucker picked up three duffel bags

containing bundles of marijuana on Oct. 3 in El Paso, Texas. Later that day, he picked up undocumented Mexican immigrants from a hotel in El Paso, Texas.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.hendersondispatch.com/articles/2007/01/27/news/news06.txt>

56. OR: Meth-smuggling suspect caught near pass (KTVZ.com, 26 Jan 2007)

An attempt to smuggle methamphetamine into Central Oregon was foiled by police and drug agents who staked out the mountain passes and spotted a pickup driver waiting along Highway 126 near McKenzie Bridge, arresting him and finding meth hidden in the vehicle. Last October, Joaquin Iglesias Avalos, 35, of Springfield, became the focus of a Central Oregon Drug Enforcement Team investigation when he was identified as someone "responsible for the smuggling of large quantities of methamphetamine into the Central Oregon area," Lt. Jim Porter said in a news release. Avalos' movements were monitored, with the help of Springfield police drug investigators, Porter said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.ktvz.com/story.cfm?nav=news&storyID=18247>

57. PA: Feds help crack big cocaine ring (Intelligencer Journal, 26 Jan 2007)

LANCASTER COUNTY, PA - Investigators said they have disbanded a multimillion-dollar cocaine operation in eastern Pennsylvania with indictments against 20 suspected smugglers. Nine Lancaster County residents were among those indicted, investigators said, and seven of them were arrested this week. As of Thursday night, Pablo Beltran and Tellin Cintron, both of Lancaster city, were the only suspects yet to be apprehended among the 20 indicted. The charges are the culmination of a two-year investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Pennsylvania State Police and the Lancaster County Drug Task Force. The operation was importing 30 to 40 kilograms of cocaine into Lancaster, Dauphin, York and Lebanon counties each month, investigators said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://local.lancasteronline.com/4/29723>

58. SC: Drug dealer convicted of running drugs through port (AP, 26 Jan 2007)

CHARLESTON, S.C. - A man who drove his burgundy Grand Am to the docks here at night hoping to make off with 2 kilograms of cocaine from a shipping container has been convicted by a federal jury on smuggling charges. Jeffeth Donaldson-Pinilla, 41, of New York and Panama, was arrested inside the Port of Charleston's Wando-Welch Terminal in Mount Pleasant on Aug. 31, 2003. He had been let inside the terminal gates by longshoreman Benjamin Parker Jr., a 35-year-old Goose Creek man now serving 22 years for drug smuggling. Donaldson-Pinilla's conviction this week ended an investigation that snared 30 people operating a drug distribution network in Charleston, Assistant U.S.

Attorney Bob Bickerton said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/mld/myrtlebeachonline/16554037.htm>

59. TN: Marijuana and cocaine worth \$44,000 found in big drug bust (The Herald-News, 29 Jan 2007)

Rhea County and state law enforcement officials seized 30 pounds of marijuana and 2.2 pounds of cocaine Thursday afternoon in one of the county's largest drug arrests ever. Based on information developed during an ongoing investigation, half a dozen sheriff's deputies, members of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and the 13th Judicial District (Cookeville) Drug Task Force stopped a small Subaru station wagon on Rhea County Highway in front of Clayton Homes at about 2:30 p.m. Thursday, according to Rhea County Sheriff Mike Neal. When the officers searched the car, they found six five-pound bricks of compressed marijuana and a one-kilo (2.2 pounds) brick of compressed cocaine, Neal said. The drugs were wrapped in a black garbage bag, hidden in a pile of clothes inside a cardboard box in the back of the station wagon.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/ywxkrw>

60. TX: \$40 Million Worth Of Cocaine Found in Broccoli Shipment (WCBSTV, 26 Jan 2007)

Border agents at the Pharr international bridge between Texas and Mexico discovered odd shapes in the floor of a tractor trailer full of broccoli trying to enter the United States. A narcotics dog confirmed that drugs were present and upon further investigation 1,200 pounds of cocaine in 500 bricks were discovered secreted in the floor of the trailer. US Customs and Border Protection said that while the tractor trailer was seized no charges were laid against the 37-year-old driver who is from Rio Bravo, Mexico. The investigation is continuing.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/yqnzzq>

61. VT: Canadian man gets 2 years for smuggling marijuana (Burlington Free Press, 25 Jan 2007)

A 28-year-old Canadian man will spend 2 years in prison for smuggling marijuana across the border into Vermont, a federal judge ordered Wednesday. Patrick DeSorcy was arrested in May in northern Vermont near the Canadian border in a rented minivan that contained three duffel bags filled with the drug, according to a news release from the U.S. Attorneys Office in Burlington. DeSorcy also was ordered to spend three years on supervised release after his prison term ends, according to the release.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/25hxow>

62. VA: Busted drug ring points out issues with port security (WAVY, 29 Jan 2007)

A federal drug bust at the Norfolk International Terminals raises concerns about local port security. For a year, customs agents tracked cocaine in cargo containers shipped to Norfolk and Charleston, South Carolina, from a port in Panama. If drugs can sneak in, what else could make its way into our ports? First of all, Martin Delgado from Panama was found guilty of masterminding the drug ring. He will be sentenced in April and could face life in prison. Millions of cargo containers enter U.S. ports each day. And the task of securing the contents falls on several agencies.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wavy.com/Global/story.asp?S=6006892&nav=23ii>

63. Canada: Cocaine bust in U.S. leads to gun seizure in B.C. (CBC News, 26 Jan 2007)

The seizure of \$4.3 million US worth of cocaine near the Canada-U.S. border last week has led to the discovery of a large cache of firearms and ammunition at a home in the tiny community of Midway in B.C.'s Southern Interior, the RCMP said. American officials arrested B.C. union leader Perley Holmes in Washington state just south of Grand Forks, B.C., alleging he was trying to smuggle 61 kilograms of cocaine back into Canada. Holmes, 50, is in jail in Spokane, Wash., where he faces a charge of possession of cocaine with intent to distribute. The RCMP said the investigation began after an American border patrol agent started following tire tracks in the snow heading toward the Canadian border.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/british-columbia/story/2007/01/26/bc-guns.html>

64. Tijuana police get weapons back (BBC, 28 Jan 2007)

Police in the northern Mexican border city of Tijuana have had their guns returned, three weeks after they were all ordered to hand them in. Mexican federal authorities confiscated the guns to check whether any had been used in drug crimes. Some officers refused to go on patrol without their weapons, while others carried plastic catapults and marbles to protect themselves. An official said it was not clear if any officers would face drugs charges. The authorities' move was part of efforts to crack down on drug traffickers and suspected police collaboration.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/6306849.stm>

65. Drug gang revolt feared in Mexico (Washington Times, 28 Jan 2007)

The Mexican government has sent an additional 9,000 soldiers and police to the country's northern states to confront drug smugglers threatening to rise up against the extradition of their gang bosses. Mexican Defense Secretary Guillermo Galvan said the government buildup, part of "Operation Sierra Madre," came in response to the Jan. 19 extradition to the United States of 15 suspected smugglers, including 10 reputed drug cartel bosses. Mexican President Felipe Calderon had dispatched more than 16,000 Mexican army, navy and federal police into the states of Chihuahua, Durango and Sinaloa shortly after he took office Dec. 1.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20070127-111625-4532r.htm>

66. Brazil raids target drugs gangs (BBC, 30 Jan 2006)

At least 14 people are reported to have been arrested in Brazil as part of a series of raids on drugs gangs.

The six-state operation is said to have targeted a global drug-trafficking and money-laundering cartel. The raids come after a two-year investigation involving Brazil, the US and several European countries. It is the latest of anti-drug gang measures introduced since President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, was sworn in for a second term in January.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/6314687.stm>

CYBERTHREAT & THEFT

67. University Unveils Cyber Threat Calculator (Information Week, 26 Jan 2007)

A University of New Hampshire research team has unveiled a Cyber Threat Calculator to assess the risk individuals post to the nation's cyber infrastructure. The university's Justiceworks researchers and students developed the tool. University representatives revealed it Thursday at the Department of Defense Cyber Crime Conference 2007 in St. Louis. The university plans to release the UNH Cyber Threat Calculator to private cyber security experts later this year.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.informationweek.com/news/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=197000992>

68. Online public records facilitate ID theft (NBC, 25 Jan 2007)

NBC News found state and county Web sites across the country that, with a few clicks of the keyboard, give identity thieves what they need to take over someone's life.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/16813496/>

69. A Lively Market, Legal and Not, for Software Bugs (New York Times, 30 Jan 2007)

Microsoft says its new operating system, Windows Vista, is the most secure in the company's history. Now the bounty hunters will test just how secure it is. When its predecessor, Windows XP, was released five years ago, software bugs were typically hunted by hackers for fame and glory, not financial reward. But now software vulnerabilities - as with stolen credit-card numbers and spammable e-mail addresses - carry real financial value. They are commonly bought, sold and traded online, both by legitimate security companies, which say they are providing a service, and by nefarious hackers and thieves. Vista, which will be installed on millions of new PCs starting today, provides the latest target.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/01/30/technology/30bugs.html?th&emc=th>

70. China censorship damaged us, Google founders admit (The Guardian, 27 Jan 2007)

Google's decision to censor its search engine in China was bad for the company, its founders admitted yesterday. Google, launched in 1998 by two Stanford University dropouts, Sergey Brin and Larry Page, was accused of selling out and renegeing on its "Don't be evil" motto when it launched in China in 2005. The company modified the version of its search engine in China to exclude controversial topics such as the Tiananmen Square massacre or the Falun Gong movement, provoking a backlash in its core western markets. Asked whether he regretted the decision, Mr Brin admitted yesterday: "On a business level, that decision to censor... was a net negative." The company has only once expressed any regret and never in as strong terms as yesterday.

Mr Brin said the company had suffered because of the damage to its reputation in the US and Europe.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://business.guardian.co.uk/davos2007/story/0,,1999994,00.html>

COUNTERFEIT

71. U.S. Businesses Pursue Different Strategies To Fight Counterfeiters (By Jaroslaw Anders, USINFO Staff Writer, 25 Jan 2007)

Washington - If your tofu tastes like it is made of gypsum, perhaps it is. Tofu cakes made of gypsum, paint and starch are just one example of counterfeit products that sometimes find their way into seemingly legitimate retail outlets. Others include exploding cell phones, auto brakes that fail and medications that harm patients.

“The U.S. Customs and Border [Protection agency] announced last year [2006] that it had witnessed [an] 83 percent increase in the number of seizures at American borders of counterfeit goods and an overall 67 percent increase in their value over 2005, so clearly we have a problem,” said Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce Stephen Jacobs. He was speaking at a January 24 meeting with representatives of the private sector at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington.

Brad Huther from the Chamber said that prosecution of counterfeit activity remains inadequate because of the absence of a global database of intelligence on the subject. To address this problem, he said, his organization partnered in 2006 with Interpol, the world’s largest international police organization, to create a global intelligence database for tracking and prosecuting commercial counterfeiters.

“That is to say, hopefully, that in a year’s or so time there will be 186 member countries of the Interpol submitting timely data 24 hours a day, seven days a week,” Huther said.

According to FBI estimates, intellectual property (IP) infringements cost U.S. businesses between \$200 billion and \$250 billion a year, and counterfeit merchandise has contributed to the loss of more than 750,000 American jobs.

Jacobs said that “the government has a responsibility to help fight counterfeiting and piracy, but so does the private sector.”

Aaron Graham of Purdue Pharma LP said his pharmaceutical company sees public-private collaboration as essential and regularly shares information with authorities in the United States, China, Taiwan, South Korea and elsewhere.

The World Health Organization has estimated that about 10 percent of all pharmaceuticals are counterfeited, and in some countries the figure reaches 60 percent.

David Wilt of Xerox Corporation said his company follows the strategy of vigorous investigation of IP violations and is pursuing the perpetrators both in U.S. courts and abroad.

“We want Xerox to be as hard a target as possible for counterfeiters that try to infiltrate our marketplace,” he said.

Andy Cifranic of Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems, LLC, a major producer of brake systems used in large trucks and buses, said customer education is as important as IP protection and enforcement. He said that for the last five years his company has conducted “a multifaceted customer and industry awareness program” to help distinguish genuine Bendix parts from look-alikes and counterfeits.

The Commerce Department’s Jacobs said that so far as anti-counterfeiting measures are concerned there is no “one-size-fits-all for companies and no one-size-fits-all for governments.”

To help businesses - especially small and medium-size - protect their consumers, as well as their reputations and their bottom lines, the Chamber of Commerce and the Coalition Against Counterfeiting and Piracy (CACCP), with the cooperation of the U.S. Department of Commerce, published January 24 a set of guidelines and case studies titled *No Trade in Fakes: Supply Chain Tool Kit*.

Jacobs said these guidelines will be made available to U.S. trading partners “for them to adapt as appropriate to their own economies.”

[No Trade in Fakes: Supply Chain Tool Kit](#) is available on the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Web site.

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

TECHNOLOGY

72. GE Security Announces Next Generation Container Security Solution to Further Increase Security of Cargo and Ports (Business Wire, 30 Jan 2007)

BRADENTON, Fla. - GE Security and its global partners today announced the release of the latest version of the CommerceGuard™ System, which is designed to further increase security of cargo containers and ports by addressing dangerous vulnerabilities in today’s global supply chain. Version 3.0 extends CommerceGuard’s container security system with new, ultra rugged readers; automated XML data feeds for use by customers to track the status and location of their shipments, and a secure protocol for highly reliable wireless messaging. Security is assured by encrypting all data communications and authenticating all hardware transactions and authorized users. Extensive lab and field tests conducted by independent third parties show wireless communications for the

system exceed 99% reliability, and the sensor detects container breaches with a false positive rate that is less than 1 percent.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/24an45>

73. Is the US launching a blimp to spy on its population? (The Guardian, 25 Jan 2007)

Perhaps, though not yet - those who live in fear of an eye in the sky tracking their every move have until 2009 to dig a bunker and set of underground tunnels to the nearest shops. But yes, the American defence contractor Lockheed Martin has been working for three years on a \$40m (£20m) contract awarded by the US Missile Defence Agency to build 11 High-Altitude Airships. The fun, and the speculation, starts once you delve into the technical details. Each airship will float 12 miles (20km) above the surface (in the low stratosphere), be powered by solar panels and could oversee an area of 600 square miles. Put 11 of them over the US with suitably powerful cameras, and they could keep watch on every square metre of the whole country.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://technology.guardian.co.uk/weekly/story/0,,1997490,00.html>

74. TSA gives Lockheed ID-card contract (Washington Post, 25 Jan 2007)

Washington - The Transportation Security Administration has decided to award a closely watched contract to supply high-tech identification cards at ports nationwide to Lockheed Martin, according to sources familiar with the choice. The initial value of the contract, which involves issuing ID cards to 850,000 maritime workers, was estimated at roughly \$70 million. The contract could prove far more valuable, however, if it leads to other, related deals for the firm. Identity technology is a fast-growing sector for government contractors, and the Transportation Worker Identification Credential, known as TWIC, is the first of many identity contracts slated to be announced in the next few years. The program, a key element of the government's attempts to secure the nation's ports, was initially supposed to provide transportation workers with ID cards embedded with microchips by the end of 2003. But it has been bogged down with technology glitches and privacy concerns, and now Lockheed will have 18 months to finish rolling out its cards.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.denverpost.com/headlines/ci_5080847

75. Homeland security confab in Va. spotlights Israeli technology (Jerusalem Post, 24 Jan 2007)

A delegation of Israeli homeland security companies was in Virginia last week looking to take advantage of America's surging interest in the industry to build on the 20 percent increase in exports of homeland security products last year. "Homeland security covers such an enormous range of services given the need to protect our air, land and water borders," said Gerald Gordon, president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, which, together with the Israeli Export and International Cooperation Institute, organized the U.S.-Israel HLS Technologies Conference in Herndon. "We don't have the sufficient experience to cover everything, and Israel has to

be the first place to look for these." Gordon said that while Congress has in the past been interested in U.S.-led programs, it recently loosened its policy and is increasingly looking to get input from its allies, namely Israel and the United Kingdom.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/22s8jl>

RESOURCES

76. The Integrated Physical Security Handbook from Homeland Defense Journal is now available.

First print sold out. Second printing just arrived. Published by Homeland Defense Journal and written by security, physical security, and architects this book and on-line reference library provide step-by-step guidance to building and facility managers in government and private enterprise. Sample chapters and details on content are at

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.physicalsecurityhandbook.com/>

77. Universal Detection Technology's New Bioterrorism Publication Featured on Amazon.com (Market Wire, 26 Jan 2007)

LOS ANGELES, CA - Universal Detection Technology (www.udetection.com), a developer of early-warning monitoring technologies to protect people from bioterrorism, announced today that the Company's recently published book is now available for sale on Amazon.com. "Bioterrorism; Five Years after the Anthrax Attacks of 2001, Are Our Buildings Ready?" is an article by Universal Detection Technology evaluating the alertness and preparedness of building owners and managers in the United States with regards to the threat of bioterrorism.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.marketwire.com/mw/release_html_b1?release_id=207774

78. "International Terrorism: Threat, Policy, and Response," Congressional Research Service Report updated January 3, 2007

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/terror/RL33600.pdf>

79. "Protection of National Security Information," Congressional Research Service Report updated December 26, 2006

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/secret/RL33502.pdf>

80. "Electronic Surveillance Modernization Act, as Passed by the House of Representatives," Congressional Research Service Report updated January 18, 2007

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/intel/RL33637.pdf>

EVENTS

81. Upcoming Training Courses from Homeland Defense Journal

- CARVER Methodology - Target Analysis & Vulnerability Assessment: An Interactive Workshop on Conducting Facility Vulnerability Assessments, February 6-8, 2007, Falls Church, VA
- National Conference on Data Center Infrastructure, February 22-23, 2007, Washington, DC
- Best Practices for Defending Against Insider Threats to Proprietary Data Conference, February 28, 2007, Arlington, VA
- Transportation and Border Security Conference, March 7, 2007, Arlington, VA
- Recognition, Analysis, Mapping, and Surveillance (RAMS) Workshop for Managers: Surveillance Techniques to Protect Facilities Against Attacks, March 7-8, 2007, Washington, DC
- Maritime Security Conference, March 8, 2007, Arlington, VA
- Emergency Preparedness for Government Facilities Workshop, March 19-20, 2007, Honolulu, HI
- Collecting and Processing Intelligence Information, March 20-21, 2007, Arlington, VA
- Physical Security for Facilities Workshop, April 10-11, 2007, Arlington, VA
- Security for Schools Workshop, April 11-12, 2007, Arlington, VA
- Physical Inspections and Audits Workshop, April 12-13, 2007, Arlington, VA
- IP Telephony Solutions for Government Conference, April 18, 2007, Arlington, VA
- National Conference on Data Centers, May 9-10, 2007, Arlington, VA

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

www.homelanddefensejournal.com

FULL REPORTS

82. Homeland Security's Chertoff Warns of Nuclear Terror Threat - International community must take action, preserve civil liberties, officials say (By David McKeeby, USINFO Staff Writer, 26 Jan 2007)

Washington - Today, the international community faces a test of its willingness to stop nuclear terrorism, says Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff.

“You can’t put that genie back in the bottle once a weapon of mass destruction or a nuclear bomb gets into the hands of a terrorist,” Chertoff said in a January 26 panel discussion at the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland.

Terrorism is high on the forum’s agenda this year. It constitutes one of the top threats to global security, according to a survey of international business and political leaders attending the event.

“What we face in the 21st century is the ability of even a single individual, and certainly a group, to leverage technology in a way to cause a type of destruction and a magnitude of destruction that would have been unthinkable a century ago,” Chertoff said.

As the destructive potential of the next large-scale terrorist attack grows with every technological advance, Chertoff said, so too does the risk of failing to detect terrorists before they strike.

Governments thus are faced with the challenge of striking the right balance among providing security, facilitating free flow of goods and services, and protecting citizens' civil liberties.

It is for this reason, Chertoff said, the United States approaches counterterrorism from the perspective of risk management. Because working to prevent every conceivable threat would be virtually impossible, the United States focuses its efforts on identifying and preventing the greatest threats.

Countries must be willing to stand together and take decisive action against hostile regimes and nonstate entities seeking to acquire weapons of mass destruction for future attacks, he said.

"At the end of the day, if those who are trafficking in this activity don't take seriously our will to enforce the rules, all the paperwork in the world is not going to make a difference," Chertoff said.

PANELISTS CONSIDER ROOT CAUSES OF TERRORISM

Chertoff joined Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz, leader of the British Conservative Party David Cameron and the European Union's counterterrorism coordinator, Gijs de Vries, who also discussed the root causes of terrorism and how best to confront them.

Tackling terrorism requires more than security operations and sophisticated technologies. Deprivation, in the form of poverty and the lack of basic political freedoms and economic opportunities, turns people into terrorists, Aziz said.

The international community must do more to help alleviate poverty and must redouble diplomatic efforts to promote a working Israeli-Palestinian peace, a settlement in Lebanon and progress in Iraq - all causes exploited by terrorists to rationalize their attacks, he said.

The world must reject terrorists' attempts to justify their murderous acts in the name of religion, the panelists said.

"Terrorism is not a friend of anybody. Terrorism is not linked to any faith," Aziz told the panel. "It is a mindset we are dealing with."

"I accept that Islam is a peaceful religion and does not endorse this use of violence," Chertoff said.

The panelists also agreed that a careful balance between security and civil liberties is essential.

“We’ve got to be very strong in combating terrorism but equally strong in defending liberty, democracy and the things we are actually fighting for,” Cameron said.

“That means that not everything is permitted in the War on Terror,” de Vries said. “To use detention without trial, or detention without charge, to use secret prisons, should not be acceptable.”

Chertoff, a former prosecutor and federal judge, agreed, but added that governments must weigh the potentially catastrophic consequences of a successful terrorist attack as they pursue terrorists. Because of “the complexity of global terrorism,” thwarting terrorism might require measures beyond those commonly utilized in prosecuting criminals, such as increased intelligence collection.

“We are going to have to come to a sustainable approach to this that safeguards fundamental liberties, but does not regard every security measure as inherently a civil liberties problem,” Chertoff said.

A [video link](#) to the panel discussion and [more information](#) on the 2007 annual meeting are on the World Economic Forum's Web site.

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

83. Henry A. Crumpton - Remarks at Black ICE (Dept. of State, 29 Jan 2007)

Remarks at Black ICE (Bioterrorism International Coordination Exercise) Briefing for Diplomatic Corps and Other Guests

Ambassador Henry A. Crumpton, U.S. Coordinator for Counterterrorism

Washington, DC
January 17, 2007

Black ICE After Action Report

Imagine you awoke to the news this morning that a country with fragile infrastructure and few resources had been the victim of a smallpox attack. Our international political and social landscapes would be altered in an instant. I'm sure that each of you are immediately and keenly aware of the implications a bioterrorism attack, especially one employing a high-consequence agent like smallpox, would have for nations and societies around the world.

Context for Black ICE

As we have learned from Switzerland's Ambassador Ziswiler a few minutes ago, Black ICE, a U.S.-Swiss co-hosted bioterrorism tabletop exercise for senior leaders from international organizations, emphasized the role of international organizations in a bioterrorism response and how they would interact with national governments.

The U.S. and Switzerland were motivated to sponsor an international organization exercise like Black ICE because we see them as vital to an international response to a bioterrorism attack. A chain of real-life events including the anthrax attacks in the U.S. in 2001, preparations for pandemic influenza, naturally-occurring disease outbreaks such as SARS, and various bioterrorism hoaxes have shown us all how vulnerable the world is to disease outbreaks, whether naturally-occurring or as the result of bioterrorism. Exercises focusing on fictional bioterrorism scenarios sponsored by national, international, and non-governmental bodies have also pointed out national and global vulnerabilities.

Through these actual and fictional events, it has also been very clear that some nations around the world intend to rely heavily on support of international organizations to respond to bioterrorism. If called upon to respond to bioterrorism, international organizations would quickly be involved in an intense and prolonged multisectoral effort with a broad range of international organization partners. Some of these organizations have not traditionally had close ties to one another.

In preparation for this possible scenario, Black ICE organizers focused on promoting greater inter-organizational understanding of mandates and available capabilities, while looking for opportunities to leverage resources and support collaborative efforts among organizations as well as between organizations and national governments.

The organizations that participated in Black ICE represent diverse sectors involved in bioterrorism response efforts: health, law enforcement, transportation, humanitarian assistance, and military. Participating organizations came from a broad cross-section of the international community: International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), International Maritime Organization (IMO), and the World Customs Organization (WCO) on transportation and technical issues; NATO, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), UN Department for Disarmament Affairs (UNDDA), and Interpol on security issues; and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the World Food Program (WFP), and the World Health Organization (WHO) on humanitarian and health issues.

What Black ICE Means

Let me take a moment to explain to you the name of the exercise, a name that very accurately describes a bioterrorism scenario. While Black ICE is an acronym for the "Bioterrorism International Coordination Exercise," it is also a common term in American English referring to a very smooth layer of ice on a road surface that, because it is so smooth, appears to be simply water. Black ice is particularly dangerous because it

appears to be harmless, so drivers are not as cautious and vigilant as they might be if they recognized the danger of the situation.

In a similar way, a bioterrorism attack can appear to be simply a manageable, naturally-occurring disease outbreak with predictable transmission patterns and without the potential for "re-load" (subsequent attacks). If not appropriately prepared and vigilant, law enforcement, public health, and all of the other sectors involved in a bioterrorism response may not recognize a bioterrorism attack or may not respond appropriately.

Exercise Scenario

The Black ICE tabletop exercise scenario simulated a smallpox attack with self-infected terrorists traveling via airplane from South Asia to Central Asia, and then moving about a major city during a large, outdoor event to infect as many others as possible. Eventually, over the course of the Black ICE scenario, the disease spreads throughout Europe, South Asia, Central Asia, and North America, resulting in cases in 17 nations, with 357 individuals infected, and 108 dead.

The disease is first discovered when an extremely ill, apparently homeless young man is brought to a hospital and diagnosed with smallpox. He turns out to be one of the terrorists who had traveled from South Asia. The scenario's fictional terrorist group was called The Council of Eight, a radical student group at a medical college in South Asia. The Council of Eight has a history of threatening propaganda with unclear intent and vague motivations.

The various facets of the Black ICE scenario raised a range of complex, global issues surrounding movement and border restrictions; vaccination policies; investigation strategies; trade implications; relationships between international organizations and national governments, relationships between various sectors such as public health, law enforcement, and military; and many other challenging multisectoral issues.

Black ICE incorporated fictional news broadcasts for each move in the scenario. These videos are examples of some kinds of media reporting. They are not inflammatory nor do they provide misinformation. As we can all imagine, there are a range of ways, however, in which the media can and will report on suspected or actual bioterrorism.

It is difficult to overestimate the impact of the media on a response to any emergency, but in a bioterrorism attack with its inherently international implications, the media's role may be even more profound given their ability to help disseminate critical, life-saving information about how to limit risk factors and any restrictions, or their ability to make a bad situation worse by spreading inaccurate information, increasing panic, and causing the public to take unwise actions.

An Opportunity to Prepare

Based on the experiences in Black ICE, the U.S. and Switzerland make the following recommendations:

- * Because of finite resources among international organizations, nations should increase their own capacity to prevent and respond to bioterrorism;
- * Nations should establish mechanisms for sharing medical countermeasures internationally and support international organizations' efforts to develop and sustain an effective system for the apportionment of medical countermeasures;
- * International organizations should work, with the support of national governments and other organizations, to clarify the coordinating authority of a response by international organizations to bioterrorism;
- * International organizations and individual nations should acknowledge and emphasize the multi-sectoral nature of preparation for and response to bioterrorism; and
- * International organizations should evaluate their bioterrorism response capabilities and systems to pinpoint potential areas for creative collaboration with other organizations.

Almost all of these recommendations have their foundation in the crucial role national governments play in improving our collective ability to prevent and respond to bioterrorism. In addition to directly supporting the work of international organizations, all of our nations can strengthen internal, national, and regional abilities to counter bioterrorism by increasing our individual and collective capabilities, and enhancing collaboration and partnership with neighboring nations to provide for mutual support to complement or supplement possible support from international organizations.

U.S. Vision for International Collaboration

The U.S. believes that the four essential pillars of effective and cooperative global and multi-sectoral efforts to combat bioterrorism are:

- * Threat Awareness - including bioterror-specific intelligence, timely assessments, and strategies for anticipating future threats.
- * Prevention and Protection - including proactive prevention activities and counterproliferation efforts, along with critical infrastructure protection.
- * Surveillance and Detection - including early detection and attack warning; disease diagnosis, identification, and the ability to discern unusual patterns of disease; epidemiological investigation to determine the extent and cause of the outbreak; laboratory testing to confirm the disease agent; provision of information regarding the outbreak to key stakeholders; attribution, and interdiction.
- * Response and Recovery - including response planning, provision of treatment and the ability to contain the outbreak through focused public health intervention, mass casualty care, risk communication, medical countermeasure development (drugs and vaccines) and distribution, decontamination, and recovery from the immediate and long-term effects of the outbreak.

Each of these elements requires input, skill, and guidance from a range of sectors including military, law enforcement, intelligence, public health, agriculture, environment,

and science. And, to be effective, all of these elements require intense and sustained international collaboration.

Black ICE is one component of an ongoing international policy dialogue about the broad range of national and international strategies to combat bioterrorism and strengthen biodefense.

Where do we go from here?

Bioterrorism is a unique threat because, unlike terrorism with conventional weapons or even chemical, nuclear, or radiological materials, the response to a bioterrorism attack will require careful coordination among sectors that are not traditionally involved in counterterrorism and security activities and may not often work together. These varied sectors including health, law enforcement, humanitarian assistance, security, defense, and transportation are the critical disciplines represented in Black ICE.

A bioterrorism attack almost anywhere in the world - regardless of the level of national preparedness and response capacity - will require immediate and significant engagement by international organizations. The organizations that participated in Black ICE represent both the first response and the last resort for many nations.

The challenges in coordination, however, are not simply technical or logistical, but political as well. Some organizations are, for example, used to working on counterterrorism and security issues, but find it daunting to engage with humanitarian relief, public health, or agricultural efforts. For others, there are concerns about linking their health care or development work to security or counterterrorism initiatives, for fear of compromising much-needed humanitarian assistance. And for all international organizations, there are the competing needs and demands of multiple member states and limited overall resources.

We view Black ICE as a valuable step toward enhanced international and intersectoral coordination in bioterrorism response. A collaborative response is fundamental to effectively preventing and responding to bioterrorism. Thus, building and enhancing relationships among relevant organizations is an important, concrete step towards a collaborative response. Our Swiss partners share our opinion regarding the vital role that international organizations play and have agreed to continue to work with us to find new ways to address these important issues. I am also pleased to share the news that one of the international organizations that participated in Black ICE already plans to build upon the themes and work of Black ICE. While in Switzerland, Interpol announced its intention to convene two more bioterrorism exercises for international organizations - a valuable contribution to continuing to develop international and multi-sectoral collaboration.

Conclusion

Let me take a moment at the conclusion of my remarks to gratefully acknowledge the tremendous contributions of our partners in this effort.

We were fortunate to have financial support from two prestigious institutions, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and the Nuclear Threat Initiative's (NTI) Global Health and Security Initiative. Their support was vital in making Black ICE a success.

Further, on behalf of the U.S. Government, I would like to offer sincere thanks to the Government of Switzerland for its tremendous role in this partnership. It is difficult to adequately thank our Swiss partners for their collaboration and contributions. Our nations' joint sponsorship of Black ICE is an outgrowth of a long history as friends and allies in our work to make the world a better and safer place for people around the globe. We look forward to continuing this productive partnership in future joint work to defend against bioterrorism and strengthen biodefense and are very grateful to Ambassador Ziswiler's government for its tremendous support and unstinting hospitality.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the efforts and investments of time, energy, and resources from the Black ICE participating organizations themselves. Their willingness to participate actively at very senior levels for the two-day exercise is ultimately what makes Black ICE a success. None of this could have happened without their continued engagement, support, and good will - and we are honored to have been able to work together with them.

Because combating bioterrorism is too complex- and inherently international-a problem for any one nation or sector to solve alone, it is vital that we identify those areas where our expertise and interests intersect, both within our own governments and among other nations. A collaborative response is fundamental to effectively preventing and responding to bioterrorism. Building relationships among relevant agencies within our governments, among international organizations, and between governments is an important, concrete step towards a collaborative response. Investing time and effort in building these relationships now, while we are not facing an emergency, will increase the effectiveness of a national or international response to bioterrorism and assure the safety of the global community.

Released on January 26, 2007

84. U.S.-Colombian Counternarcotics Effort a Model for Afghanistan (By Eric Green, USINFO Staff Writer, 25 Jan 2007)

Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Peter Pace says Columbia's counternarcotics program can be a model for Afghanistan. (File photo; AP Images)

Washington – Colombia's intense counternarcotics efforts could have value for Afghanistan, says General Peter Pace, the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff.

During a January 18-19 trip to Colombia, Pace said Afghanistan can learn from the Colombian experience in its own battle against the cultivation of illegal drugs.

Pace, meeting the press in Colombia January 19, praised “the model that is present here in Colombia where the Armed Forces of the country have rid certain areas of terrorists and then, very importantly, the government has followed with projects that have brought electricity and water and jobs.”

He also cited a Colombian program that allows individual who had been members of armed insurgent groups to “lay down their arms, and be supported in an education process by this government that allows them to become a productive part of society.”

“Those kinds of outreach programs by the Colombian government,” said Pace, “are a good model for President Karzai to consider as he looks at how to reduce the amount of drug trafficking in his country and provide stability and jobs for his citizens.”

Pace thanked Colombia for reaching out to help Afghanistan by sending teams of Colombian counternarcotics experts “to go sit and talk” about the issue with relevant members of the government of Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

UNITED STATES HELPING NATIONS FIGHT DRUG TRAFFICKING

The United States has been active in efforts helping both Colombia and Afghanistan fight drug trafficking. The Colombian government in 2000 launched a U.S.-backed program called “Plan Colombia” aimed at helping the country resolve the linked problems of drug trafficking and violence. In Afghanistan, U.S. programs provide incentives to farmers to discontinue planting poppy and train farmers in ways to increase their income from legitimate crops.

Myles Frechette, a former U.S. ambassador to Colombia and now an independent business consultant in Washington, told *USINFO* January 23 that the Colombian and Afghan drug situations, while posing similar threats to each nation’s national security, differ in terms of terrain and other aspects of opium crop cultivation.

One way in which the Andean nation is a good model for other countries to follow regarding counternarcotics is the commitment shown to the fight against illegal drugs by Colombia’s current president, Alvaro Uribe, and his predecessor, Andrés Pastrana.

Frechette recounted his frustration, as U.S. envoy to Bogota from 1993 to 1997, when the U.S.-backed anti-drug effort in Colombian was stymied because of “roadblocks” created by Colombian President Ernesto Samper. Samper was accused of accepting \$6 million from the Cali drug cartel for his 1994 campaign.

For a nation to succeed against drug trafficking, “job number one is to have a leader who believes in destroying illegal drugs” Frechette said, citing as a contrast Pastrana, Colombia’s president from 1998 to 2002. Pastrana “really understood” that narcotics could ruin Colombia, said Frechette. The former ambassador added that Afghanistan’s Karzai has an excellent role model to emulate in Alvaro Uribe.

President Bush, during his meeting with Uribe at the White House June 14, 2006, acknowledged that Uribe has “got a tough job in dealing with narco-terrorist groups in his country.” But Uribe, Bush said, is “committed to dealing firmly with narco-terrorism.

ENHANCING COOPERATION

Teams of Colombian anti-narcotics police officers traveled to Afghanistan in July and August of 2006 to share their drug enforcement experiences with their Afghan counterparts under the auspices of a program called Shared Responsibility.

Shared Responsibility is run by the Colombian vice president’s office; while the U.S. government is not a sponsor, it is in favor of the Colombian initiative. Program participants encourage drug-producing and drug-consuming countries to work together in battling the global drug trafficking problem. (See [related article](#).)

Officials from Shared Responsibility told *USINFO* January 23 via e-mail that “unfortunately, Colombia is all too familiar with the deadly consequences of narco-terrorism.

“We do not want any other nation to share this same fate,” one official said. “Perhaps this is why Colombia is a good model for nations such as Afghanistan - as victims we feel an immense responsibility to help others.”

Afghanistan, according to the U.N. Office of Drugs and Crime, produced an estimated 92 percent of the world’s supply of heroin in 2006, although Colombia is believed to be the main supplier of heroin to the United States. The Afghan government has been trying to convince farmers not to cultivate the opium poppy, which is used to make heroin.

A [transcript](#) of Pace’s remarks is available on the Web site of the U.S. Embassy in Colombia.

More information about U.S. counter-drug efforts in Colombia and Afghanistan is available in the State Department’s [International Narcotics Control Strategy Report](#).

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

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