
CABLE Gram
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CABLE Gram Volume 3 Issue 5

1 February 2006 CABLE Gram™

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Take care,

Zhi Hamby-Nye, Editor

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

FEDERAL

1. Mayors vent over changes in homeland security grants (By Greta Wodele, CongressDaily, 30 Jan 2006)

A gathering of frustrated U.S. mayors grilled Bush administration officials Friday about federal homeland security initiatives. The mayors told officials that recent changes in homeland security grants were inflexible, confusing and cumbersome. "That's our problem in dealing with you," said Baltimore Mayor Martin O'Malley, a Democrat who added that the amounts of cuts in homeland security grants over recent years would result in the grant programs being "eliminated by 2009."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33259&dcn=e_gvet

2. U.S. to Speed Illegal Immigrants' Removal (AP, 30 Jan 2006)

WASHINGTON - Federal agents say they will speed up the removal of illegal immigrants caught near the northern U.S. border, extending a program already in effect along the Mexican border. The practice called "expedited removal" speeds up the pace of deportations and makes it less likely that illegal immigrants will slip into the country because immigrant detention centers lack bunk space. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff called the program part of a nationwide effort to "implement new tactics throughout the U.S. in order to gain control of our borders." Expedited removal

has already cut the average length of detentions along the southern border from 90 days to 19 days, said Dean Boyd, a spokesman for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, part of the Homeland Security Department. The faster deportations apply to those immigrants who have been in the United States less than 14 days and are either found within 100 miles of the northern border or caught trying to enter the United States with phony documents. Those seeking asylum will still be granted an interview with an asylum officer, authorities said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.federalnewsradio.com/index.php?nid=78&sid=336909>

3. Border agency ordered to reconsider 2005 bonuses (GovExec.com, by Karen Rutzick, 31 Jan 2006)

High-performing employees in U.S. Customs and Border Protection could receive additional pay for 2005, an arbitrator ruled this month. CBP has been ordered to reconsider employees' 2005 superior achievement cash awards after arbitrator Roger Kaplan found that the agency should not have made decisions unilaterally without input from federal employee union representatives. In December 2004, the agency disbanded local joint awards committees, which were composed of union and agency representatives, and began awarding the bonuses without the advice of union representatives.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33261&dcn=e_gvet

4. Flight attendants decry TSA OK of on-board scissors, screwdrivers (AP, 30 Jan 2006)

ATLANTA - Flight attendants at the nation's busiest airport protested Monday against the relaxing of federal security restrictions that once again allow passengers to bring small scissors and screwdrivers aboard planes. The actions at Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport mirrored others planned by flight attendants across the nation Monday. Wearing small placards and lapel pins with an image of a pair of scissors and a screwdriver with a red slash mark through them, the flight attendants gathered signatures from passengers for a petition asking Congress to reinstate the bans. The Transportation Security Agency lifted the bans Dec. 22, allowing previously forbidden items - such as screwdrivers and pliers smaller than 6 inches and scissors with blades smaller than 4 inches - back on board planes.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.macon.com/mld/macon/news/politics/13748463.htm>

5. Homeland Security Contracts for Vast New Detention Camps (News Analysis/Commentary, Peter Dale Scott, New America Media, 31 Jan 2006)

BERKELEY, Calif.--A Halliburton subsidiary has just received a \$385 million contract from the Department of Homeland Security to provide "temporary detention and processing capabilities." The contract -- announced Jan. 24 by the engineering and construction firm KBR -- calls for preparing for "an emergency influx of immigrants, or to support the rapid development of new programs" in the event of other emergencies,

such as "a natural disaster." The release offered no details about where Halliburton was to build these facilities, or when.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?R50C1209C>

6. Chairman of Homeland Security panel advocates risk-based funding strategy (GovExec.com, From CongressDaily, 1 Feb 2006)

House Homeland Security Chairman Peter King, R-N.Y., on Tuesday advocated a risk-based approach for distributing funds to enhance security against terrorist attacks. At the RailwayAge Security Forum and Expo, King said funds needed to be allocated to areas based on their threat levels, endorsing a policy begun by the Homeland Security Department earlier this month. "We don't have the luxury of being able to waste money," King said. A bill written by Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Chairman Susan Collins, R-Maine, and ranking member Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., that makes it easier for rural areas to receive grants is not acceptable, according to King.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33277&dcn=e_gvet

7. Deal Lets Big Farms Skirt Pollution Fines (AP, 30 Jan 2006)

WASHINGTON - The Bush administration will let thousands of factory-style farms escape severe penalties for fouling the air and water with animal excrement in exchange for data to help curb future pollution. The Environmental Protection Agency has signed agreements with 2,681 animal feeding operations in the egg, chicken, turkey, dairy and hog industries. They would be exempt from having to pay potential fines of up to \$27,500 a day for violations either in the past or over the next four years. On Monday, the EPA said its Environmental Appeals Board had approved the first 20 of those agreements, selecting accords it thought were representative of the whole. EPA officials said those approvals set the stage for the remaining agreements to gain approval quickly. The agreements include 10 swine-raising operations and 10 operations that raise egg-laying birds. The board said it determined that the agreements were consistent with the Clean Air Act, including its penalty provisions.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.federalnewsradio.com/index.php?nid=78&sid=336953>

8. Senators seek assurances about pandemic flu protection (By Emily Heil, CongressDaily, 1 Feb 2006)

Congress is prepared to provide the second installment of the \$7.1 billion that President Bush requested last year to prepare the country for a potential outbreak of the pandemic flu, key lawmakers said Tuesday, but first they want assurances from public health officials about how existing flu-readiness funds are being used. Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, said lawmakers would include the remaining \$3.3 billion requested by the administration as part of a supplemental spending bill expected in March or April. Last year, Congress provided \$3.8 billion of Bush's \$7.1 billion request in the fiscal 2006 Defense spending bill, and promised the rest of the money at a later date. "You will get the balance of the money early this year, if we get the assurance that putting it up will

make a difference," Stevens told public health officials at a hearing today before the Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee on avian flu readiness.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33276&dcn=e_gvet

9. Outlook uncertain for bill creating Katrina recovery organization (By Bill Swindell, CongressDaily, 30 Jan 2006)

Rep. Richard Baker, R-La., said Thursday his measure to create a government-sponsored corporation to redevelop areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina has a 50-50 chance of success in the wake of White House opposition to the measure because of fiscal and operational concerns. Baker said he and other members of the state's congressional delegation are working under a tight deadline because banks and mortgage companies might soon start foreclosure proceedings against many of the estimated 205,000 Louisiana homeowners whose residences are uninhabitable. "We are very late right now. We are soon approaching the six-month anniversary of the storm. Homeowners have not paid mortgage notes. There is a point which mortgage companies and banks have to take action," said Baker, whose bill is backed by some banking and mortgage groups.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33250&dcn=e_gvet

10. FCC panel convenes Katrina communications probe (By Michael Martinez, National Journal's Technology Daily, 31 Jan 2006)

The Federal Communications Commission on Monday opened an independent panel investigation into the effect of Hurricane Katrina on the nation's communications systems. The panel, which includes members from private and public organizations, has been charged with providing the agency with a list of recommendations by June 15 on how to improve the nation's emergency response and communications systems. Panel Chairwoman Nancy Victory said the investigation would be split into three working groups focusing on infrastructure resiliency, recovery coordination and procedures and emergency communications. The working groups will conduct their own research and collect testimony in between the full panel's meetings before the final report's June deadline.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33266&dcn=e_gvet

11. Japan: Police used wiretapping in murder case for 1st time last year (Japan Economic Newswire Via Thomson Dialog NewsEdge, 1 Feb 2006)

TOKYO - Japanese police used wiretapping in a murder case for the first time last year and arrested a suspect in the case involving the fatal shooting of a senior crime syndicate member in Mie Prefecture in 2003, police officials said Wednesday. The Mie prefectural police obtained a warrant for wiretapping last year based on the suspicion of organized murder after they determined it was highly likely that a crime group was organizationally involved in the murder, the officials said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.tmcnet.com/usubmit/2006/01/31/1330599.htm>

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS

12. CO: 'No Spy List' up and running (By Tillie Fong, Rocky Mountain News, 31 Jan 2006)

Don't want to have your phones tapped, your e-mails monitored, or your Google searches tracked by the National Security Agency? Sign up for the "no spy list" - a creation of ProgressNow Action, a liberal internet group based in Colorado. "It's like the no-call list," said Michael Huttner, executive director for ProgressNow Action. "We're looking to get people in every state to sign on." Based on the "no-call" list, in which people can sign up to stop telemarketers from calling them, the "no spy" list is an online petition which provides a way for individuals to voice their concerns about the domestic spying that President Bush has authorized the NSA to conduct to combat terrorism.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://rockymountainnews.com/drmn/local/article/0,1299,DRMN_15_4430274,00.html

13. DE: Cameras keeping an eye on city - Surveillance has played role in 95 criminal cases since August (The News Journal, 31 Jan 2006)

WILMINGTON - Surveillance cameras installed in two high-crime neighborhoods five months ago are doing more to help police nab criminals than a much larger bank of downtown cameras installed five years ago. From Aug. 1 to Jan. 20, the 16 neighborhood cameras have helped the Wilmington Police Department with 95 cases, said Dean Vietri, director of security for Downtown Visions, the private nonprofit group that monitors the neighborhood and downtown cameras. That is a stunning number, considering the 25 downtown cameras have helped with 326 cases in more than five years, city Public Safety Director James Mosley said. Most of the cases referred to police have resulted in arrests, while a few resulted in brief detentions of subjects who eventually were released, Vietri said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?M48D55F8C>

14. IL: Daley: Cameras will make us safer (Chicago Sun-Times, 31 Jan 2006)

Mayor Daley on Monday embraced a radical plan to require every licensed Chicago business open more than 12 hours a day to install indoor and outdoor cameras. "Block clubs, community organizations want cameras. ... They can't walk down the street. ... Their kids have to go around a corner away from the gang-bangers. You can't walk to church. You can't get on the CTA. ... Cameras really prevent much crime. Cameras also solve a lot of crime. The terrorist attacks in London were solved by cameras. The whole incident was solved by cameras," Daley said. Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce President Jerry Roper estimated that 12,000 businesses -- maybe more -- are open for more than 12 hours a day and, therefore, would be covered by the sweeping camera mandate. That includes roughly 7,000 restaurants, more than 100 hotels and scores of retail establishments.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.suntimes.com/output/news/cst-nws-camera31.html>

15. IN: Dozens of manhole covers stolen in (AP, 31 Jan 2006)

Thieves have made off with dozens of hefty manhole covers and sewer grates in the last few days, leaving gaping holes scattered in streets across the city. City officials believe the high price of scrap metal is spurring the thefts and have been warning area scrap yards not to buy any manhole covers they might be offered. Crews worked Monday to put up warning barriers for the holes once protected by the covers, which can weigh about 300 pounds.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?Q1FE26F8C>

16. LA: State Turned Down Feds' Help, Documents Show (AP, 31 Jan 2006)

A ranking Louisiana health official turned down federal offers to help move or evacuate patients as Hurricane Katrina bore down on New Orleans, a newly released document shows. But the state's top medical officer said Louisiana coordinated with the federal Health and Human Services Department in evacuating hospitals and nursing homes after Katrina hit. Two days before the Aug. 29 storm, HHS was told by the state's health emergency preparedness director that the help was not needed, according to an e-mail released Monday by a Senate panel investigating the government's response to Katrina. The state official, identified in the Aug. 27 e-mail as Dr. Roseanne Pratts, "responded no, that they do not require anything at this time and they would be in touch if and when they needed assistance," wrote HHS senior policy analyst Erin Fowler.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.breitbart.com/news/2006/01/31/D8FFSI7O2.html>

17. MA: Practices of TSA at BIA probed (Bangor Daily News, 31 Jan 2006)

BANGOR - The federal Transportation Security Administration is investigating claims of substandard management in its operations at Bangor International Airport, according to an e-mail obtained by the Bangor Daily News. A review being conducted this week concerns "allegations of poor management communication practices and general management issues," Gregory R. Willard, assistant federal security director for TSA in Bangor, wrote in the e-mail sent over the weekend to TSA employees. Reached at his office Monday, Willard referred questions to TSA regional spokeswoman Ann Davis.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.bangornews.com/news/templates/?a=128142>

18. MA: Boston's transit authority plans to modernize telecom system (FCW, 31 Jan 2006)

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) awarded a \$7.8 million contract to Communications International Inc. (CII) to install and test a new 800 MHz interoperable voice and data communications system. The transportation authority, which oversees bus, train and boat operations and transit systems for people with disabilities in the Boston metropolitan area, actually awarded the contract last summer but formally announced the deal today. CII is installing a \$25.7 million M/A-COM Enhanced Digital Access Communications System (EDACS) system purchased by the MBTA in 2003 to replace a decades-old system.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fcw.com/article92156-01-31-06-Web>

19. NV: Bureau of Land Management returned \$700,000 in Nevada mine cleanup funds (AP, 30 Jan 2006)

RENO, Nev. - While state and federal regulators were scrambling to find money to start cleaning up one of Nevada's most contaminated mines, the Bureau of Land Management returned \$700,000 that had been earmarked for the job that may end up costing more than \$100 million, documents show. BLM officials in Nevada told agency budget officers in November 2004 the \$700,000 wasn't needed because one of the responsible parties, Atlantic Richfield Co., had agreed to do additional monitoring of air and water pollution at the former Anaconda copper mine on the edge of Yerington, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2006/01/30/news/state/12906200911.txt>

20. NJ: Bill enhances state security standards (Special to Today's Sunbeam, 30 Jan 2006)

TRENTON - An Assembly panel Friday released legislation Assemblyman John J. Burzichelli, Assemblywoman Joan Quigley and Assemblyman Neil H. Cohen sponsored to require satisfactory security clearances by all officials who would have access to state security information and strategically significant facilities or areas. "Because we live in an era of terrorism, no aspect of our state's domestic security should be taken lightly," said Burzichelli, D-3rd Dist. "Ensuring the confidentiality of security information and safeguarding vulnerable facilities within the Garden State calls for added vigilance at all levels." Under the Burzichelli/Quigley/Cohen bill (A-1909), any person other than the governor or a member of the Legislature would be prevented from accessing designated confidential security materials and secure facilities or areas relating to the state's domestic security or national security until the successful completion of a background check.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?U1EE23F8C>

21. NC: Fourteen Hurt in N.C. Chemical Plant Blast (AP, 31 Jan 2006)

MORGANTON, N.C. - An explosion at a chemical plant Tuesday injured 14 workers and set off a fire that spewed thick black smoke, leading to the temporary evacuation of nearby residents, officials said. Two of the workers were seriously injured, plant vice president Randy Cox said. Windows were blown out as much as a third of a mile away, and a house across the street from the plant was moved off its foundation.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.federalnewsradio.com/index.php?nid=80&sid=13929>

22. OH: Sheriff bills U.S. government for jailed illegals (Washington Times, 31 Jan 2006)

An Ohio sheriff has billed the Department of Homeland Security \$125,000 for the cost of jailing illegal aliens arrested on criminal charges in his county, saying he's angry that the federal government has failed in its responsibility to keep them out of the United States. Butler County Sheriff Richard K. Jones yesterday said that although the government may

not be legally obligated to pay the three bills he has sent since November, he intends to send similar ones every month until the federal government gains control of the border.
CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20060131-121506-7419r.htm>

23. TX: Accident turns into human smuggling bust (KTRK, 31 Jan 2006)

HOUSTON - An overnight wreck on the northwest side led to a major human smuggling bust. At first glance, witnesses thought it was a simple case of hit and run. As it turned out, police had to call in federal authorities when they began to realize what they had. It happened around 2:45am Tuesday on Highway 290 outbound near 34th Street. A man driving a small two door sports car was on his way home when he says he was hit by a large truck traveling in the same direction. The collision caused a flat tire on his car, and he pulled over. The truck driver also had a flat tire and pulled off on the 34th Street exit. Security guards noticed the driver and a passenger bail out of the truck and run and called police. It turned out there were 19 people in the cab and back bed of that truck, all believed to be undocumented immigrants. Among them were 15 adults and four minors, one of whom was nine years old.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=local&id=3860960>

KEY PEOPLE

24. Secret Service director tapped for top Customs post (FCW, 31 Jan 2006)

Ralph Basham, director of the Secret Service, will be nominated by President Bush to become the next Customs and Border Protection (CBP) commissioner. He would replace acting commissioner Deborah Spero. She has held that position since the retirement of the CBP's first commissioner, Robert Bonner, who returned to the private sector last year. "Ralph's extensive law enforcement career, his work internationally and within several components of the department make him a superb fit to lead CBP's vital mission," Homeland Security Department Secretary Michael Chertoff said in a written statement.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fcw.com/article92148-01-31-06-Web>

25. Treasury Dept. Crime Chief to Leave Post (AP, 30 Jan 2006)

WASHINGTON - A key player in the Treasury Department's efforts to protect the nation's financial system from being abused by terrorists, drug dealers and other criminals is leaving. William Fox, director of Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, called FinCen, since December 2003, is taking a job with Bank of America as its senior compliance executive for financial crimes. "Forging close bonds with both the financial and law enforcement communities, William worked to advance our vital interests in both national security and the free flow of capital," said Treasury Secretary John Snow.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.federalnewsradio.com/index.php?nid=78&sid=263525>

26. Former Massachusetts CIO returns (FCW, 31 Jan 2006)

Louis Gutierrez, a former Massachusetts chief information officer, has been reappointed to that position by Thomas Trimarco, the commonwealth's administration and finance secretary. Gutierrez served as the state's CIO from 1996 to 1998. Currently the chief technology strategist at the Commonwealth Medicine division of the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Gutierrez will replace acting CIO Bethann Pepoli, who will become deputy CIO. Gutierrez' appointment is effective Feb. 6.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fcw.com/article92149-01-31-06-Web>

GANG ACTIVITY

27. CA: Oceanside council to consider 'TenPoint' program to address gang problems (NCTimes.com, 29 Jan 2006)

OCEANSIDE - The City Council will decide Wednesday whether to support a proposed "Oceanside TenPoint Collaborative Model," a policy document that calls for the mobilization of churches, schools and community-based organizations under one plan to address gang problems in the city.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2006/01/30/news/coastal/12906192932.txt>

28. CA: San Francisco Citywide Effort Needed To Curb Gang Violence (BeyondChron, 31 Jan 2006)

In order to curb youth violence, the city of San Francisco has teamed up with UCSF to develop a violence prevention strategy. Dr. Howard Pinderhughes will be spearheading the project to create both short term and long-term goals. During the Committee on Ending Gun and Gang Violence special meeting on Monday January 30, Dr. Pinderhughes estimated that in six to eight months a plan would be in place. The plan should encompass strategies for different areas of the city. They will map risk factors for each neighborhood. Dr. Pinderhughes will also lead an evaluation of various city agencies to see which is most effective. "We need to close the data gaps between agencies," said Dr. Pinderhughes. "We need to take an inventory and see where money is spent successfully."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.beyondchron.org/news/index.php?itemid=2891>

29. FL: Gang hide-outs increase scrutiny (Miami Herald, 1 Feb 2006)

Police will increase patrols around abandoned warehouses believed to have been used as meeting places for street gang members just yards from the runway at the Homestead Air Reserve Base, though officials said the gang activity never threatened base security. The warehouses on Miami-Dade County property will be boarded up, and brush will be cleared to give authorities a better view of the buildings, County Manager George Burgess wrote Tuesday in a memo to the mayor and county commission. Investigators are trying to piece together how -- and how long -- gang members had been meeting at two abandoned warehouses next to the base. Inside the warehouses, officials recently found extensive gang graffiti and rooms apparently used for sex, beatings, interrogations and target practice, The Miami Herald reported this week.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/13760224.htm>

30. ID: Residents React To Gang Members (KBCITYV, 31 Jan 2006)

CALDWELL - Since Local 2 News first shared the story of two local gang members Monday night, numerous viewers have sent emails with their own comments on Gang activity in the Treasure Valley. The following e-mail is from a Caldwell woman after she watched Monday nights story. She writes: "I found myself wondering about the "colors" these gangs are wearing. I know that you said they wear "red" & "blue" but what about us, the average "American Joe"? Are we in danger if we are wearing these colors?" On Tuesday Local 2 News sat down with her as she voiced those concerns. "Marian" didn't want her full name or identity to be revealed but she told Local 2 News she's scared, she's concerned over what she is hearing from these gang members and what it means for her safety, her family's safety, and her community.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www2.kbcityv.com/x69981.xml>

31. NJ: Three injured in three separate shootings; cops suspect gang dispute (Trentonian.com, 31 Jan 2006)

TRENTON - Three people were wounded in three separate shootings within a half-hour yesterday in what police believe could be the violent eruption of a gang dispute. Gunfire pierced several city streets already rattled by a spate of four shootings Sunday that could also be connected (see sidebar). None of the victims was killed but two were hospitalized in critical condition last night. The shootings possibly stem from a dispute over a girl among gang factions at a recent party across the Delaware River in Bristol, Pa., Trenton police said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?H19D46F8C>

32. NC: Former NAACP head takes on city's gang problem (The Herald-Sun, 29 Jan 2006)

DURHAM - In a city where many young black men are caught in the scourge of gang violence, a civil rights pioneer with Piedmont roots called for Durham leaders and residents to reach out and engage them with education and love. "All of this stuff that is going on is inextricably related to poverty," Ben Chavis said in a speech Sunday night at the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People annual meeting.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.herald-sun.com/durham/4-695415.html>

33. OH: Gang member held, another sought (Dayton Daily News, 1 Feb 2006)

Police are searching for a member of a California street gang after arresting a fellow member Monday. U.S. Marshals followed Viet Huynh from a home in Miami Twp., where he had celebrated the Vietnamese New Year the night before, Supervisory Deputy U.S. Marshal Bill Taylor said Tuesday. Huynh, arrested at a Beavercreek gas station on a warrant for attempted murder, is awaiting an extradition hearing, Taylor said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.daytondailynews.com/localnews/content/localnews/daily/0201gang.html>

34. TX: Suspected MS-13 gang member found guilty of murder (KRISTV.COM, 30 Jan 2006)

CORPUS CHRISTI - A suspected member of the MS-13 gang plead guilty to the brutal murder of an elderly man. 22-year-old Michael Lopez Garcia will spend the next 50 years behind bars for last summer's murder of 82-year-old Daniel Longoria. His trial marks the first time the Nueces County District Attorney's office prosecuted a suspected member of the notorious gang.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.kristv.com/Global/story.asp?S=4431262>

35. Writing on the Wall: Gang graffiti, attire have sophisticated meaning, purpose (Standard-Speaker, 31 Jan 2006)

You're driving down the street and you see a youth standing on the corner wearing a Colorado Rockies jersey. He may be an admirer of manager Clint Hurdle or a fan of Todd Helton. Or he may be a member of the Crips street gang. Gangs have adopted the apparel of professional and big-time college sports teams as their attire. Most often, it's because the team's colors are the same as their gang's colors. But not always. Members of the MS-13 gang often wear sports jerseys from a variety of teams with the number 13. But tracking which gang wears what team is somewhat problematic and an inexact science. A handout available at the "Gang, Drugs and Concealed Weapons" seminar, keynoted by Allentown police Sgt. Ed Bachert, held at Faith Assembly of God Wednesday night, listed sports apparel favored by various gangs. There is some overlap and some gangs wear more than one team.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?V1AD32F8C>

36. Latin American Gangs Threaten Mexico and the U.S. (Mexidata, By Jerry Brewer, 30 Jan 2006)

Those most likely to harbor gangs intent on terror are those who may view the United States as a declining superpower due to recent events. Many in countries that find it virtually impossible to control gangs, criminals and terrorists within their own territories – a threat that emanates as far south as the tri-border confluence of Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil. Charles Shapiro, the former U.S. ambassador to Venezuela, states, "Almost every extremist terror group is now represented in Latin America." And that includes Islamic terrorists, among others al-Qaeda, Hamas, Hezbollah, and Islamic Jihad. Living there among an estimated population of 25,000 Arabs, or those of Arab descent. Apart from Western Hemisphere criminals, for decades there have been pockets of smugglers, terrorists, drug traffickers, arms dealers, and organized crime figures from Russia, Japan, China, Nigeria and others nations in the area. And most of the successful infiltration into Latin American nations is due to weak governments, corrupt establishments, unscrupulous leftist leaders, and sagging economies.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.mexidata.info/id768.html>

37. Mexico says gang threat exaggerated (UPI, 30 Jan 2006)

MEXICO CITY - Despite U.S. concern about Central American gang activity emanating across the border from Mexico, authorities there insist it is not yet a problem. Mexican researcher Marco Lara said during a recent meeting that Mexico as a "gateway" for violent Central American gang members seeking entry to the United States "has stronger institutions than its neighbors to the south, and so for the moment is not facing a threat to its national security." Lara conceded, however, that Mexican law enforcement must currently cope with localized "crime problems in specific areas of the borders and in metropolitan areas of the cities where these groups operate," EFE news agency reported. U.S. authorities are particularly concerned about infiltration across the Mexican border of members of the Central American gang Mara Salvatrucha-13: In 2005 U.S. authorities estimated that the criminal organization had 50,000 members in Central America and between 8,000 and 10,000 members in the United States.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.upi.com/SecurityTerrorism/view.php?StoryID=20060130-121605-7070r>

38. New Honduras govt starts talks with violent gang (Reuters, 28 Jan 2006)

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras - Honduras' new government has started talks with one of the country's street gangs in a bid to persuade it to end its reign of terror, Security Minister Alvaro Romero said on Monday. President Manuel Zelaya took office on Friday and has promised a crackdown on the gangs, which challenged the previous government with a series of beheadings and an attack on a bus in December 2004 that killed 28 people. Zelaya took over from Ricardo Maduro, whose government tried to negotiate through mediators with one of the two main "maras" or youth gangs. The talks failed in 2004 after two of the gang's leaders were killed. "One of these gangs has been in touch with me," Romero, a former army general, told Reuters in an interview. "We have been talking for one or two weeks and we are going to continue in this vein."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N30324549.htm>

39. Colombia arrests Italian suspected mafia coordinator (Xinhuanet, 31 Jan 2006)

BOGOTA - Colombian authorities have arrested an Italian citizen suspected of being Italian mafia's coordinator in South America, local media reported Tuesday. Renato Zappa, 65, who is also on the list of wanted in Italy, was captured in Acacias, a town in the central Colombian department of Meta. The investigation by the Colombian authorities show Zappa was sending 400 to 500 kg of cocaine to Europe each month. "Zappa is considered to be the Colombian drug contact for the Anrageta mafia, setting prices and arranging transport routes," said Colonel Jaime Gutierrez, deputy director of Colombia's Judicial Investigation Department. "The Italian authorities told us he had contact with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the Norte del Valle drug cartel," Gutierrez said. FARC is the largest rebel group in Colombia.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2006-02/01/content_4124804.htm

NARCO TRAFFICKING

40. AZ: Two Sonora men jailed in pot-smuggling case (The Bulletin, 30 Jan 2006)

Two arrests have been made in connection with a dump truck found to be carrying 3,100 pounds of marijuana. At 9:34 in the morning, Wednesday, an officer responded to call about a suspicious vehicle parked near apartments on the 600 block of Patagonia Highway, said Lt. Heriberto Zuniga, the public information officer for the Nogales Police Department. "When the officer arrived they found a 1982 International Dump Truck parked near building B," he said. "The officer called in the plate, and the dispatcher came back to advise that the plate was registered to a 1986 Chevy pickup truck from Guadalupe, Ariz. "When the officer checked the vehicle, it was obvious it was loaded with bundles of marijuana."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nogalesinternational.com/articles/2006/01/30/news/news5.txt>

41. MA: 3 men arraigned on drug charges (The Republican, 31 Jan 2006)

CHICOPEE - Three out of seven suspects arrested in a multi-apartment raid on Friday night, which resulted in the seizure of more than \$70,000 in heroin, were arraigned yesterday in Chicopee District Court and ordered held on high bails pending bindover hearings. Chicopee District Court operations supervisor Dan J. Dulude said the remaining defendants were expected to be arraigned late in the afternoon.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?L3BD62F8C>

42. MO: Cocaine ring in Houston is linked to land deals here (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 29 Jan 2006)

The Garcia family of Houston has worked hard for decades, building a small empire consisting of a business that imported food from Mexico, two restaurants, a meat market and even a ranch for raising race horses. It seemed a classic tale of immigrant success, and an example of the booming cross-border trade with Mexico. Then, in 2004, family member Francisco Serna-Garcia was charged with being part of a conspiracy that imported something from Mexico besides food - cocaine. It marked the unraveling of what Assistant U.S. Attorney Jim Delworth called one of the biggest cocaine trafficking operations ever uncovered here. Prosecutors say that now, 33 guilty pleas later, it is about down to its loose ends.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?S11C2309C>

43. NY: Twenty-eight charged in western New York drug ring (AP, 30 Jan 2006)

BUFFALO, N.Y. - An investigation prompted by an anonymous letter led to drug trafficking charges against 28 people, state law enforcement officials said Monday. Investigators with the attorney general's Organized Crime Task Force and New York State Police used wiretaps and worked undercover during the 18-month investigation, which netted one kilogram of heroin worth an estimated \$250,000 and more than 60 grams of cocaine with a street value of about \$6,500. The investigation began after Attorney General Eliot Spitzer's office received a letter from a group of Buffalo residents "complaining about rampant drug dealing" in their neighborhood, Spitzer's office said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?C4CD13F8C>

44. Media get rare look at smuggling tunnel - U.S. Officials Arrest Suspected Builder (Los Angeles Times, 31 Jan 2006)

SAN DIEGO - Fifty feet underneath the warehouse, groundwater drips from the jagged, sandstone walls of the longest tunnel ever found under a U.S. international border. The tunnel makes a sharp turn south and, lit by a string of 60-watt bulbs, extends a third of a mile farther, all the way to the U.S.-Mexico border. "You're looking at a . . . straight shot into the Republic of Mexico," said Frank Marwood, acting deputy special agent in charge for Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Federal officials Monday gave U.S. and Mexican media a rare look at a smuggling tunnel as they announced the arrest of a man with alleged ties to a Mexican drug cartel that authorities suspect built the 2,400-foot-long passage. Carlos Eugenio Cardenas-Calvillo, who allegedly works for the warehouse operators in Otay Mesa, V & F Distributors L.L.C., was arraigned Monday on drug conspiracy charges.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.mercurynews.com/mlld/mercurynews/news/local/13753787.htm>

45. Suspect Arrested in Probe of California-Mexico Drug Tunnel - Illegal tunnel believed to be longest ever dug between United States and Mexico (By Eric Green, Washington File Staff Writer, 31 Jan 2006)

Washington - A Mexican national has been arrested in connection with an ongoing investigation into what is believed to be the longest cross-border tunnel ever discovered linking the United States and Mexico, announced the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency.

In a January 30 statement, ICE said its agents had taken the suspect into custody and would charge him with conspiracy to import a controlled substance. The allegations stem from the man's ties to a warehouse in the community of Otay Mesa, California, which concealed the U.S. access point to the tunnel. (See [related article](#).)

The suspect's name was not released, pending his appearance January 31 in U.S. District Court in nearby San Diego, said ICE, which is the investigative arm of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

The arrest came less than 24 hours after ICE issued an alert urging individuals who had been in the tunnel or were responsible for its design or construction to come forward with information. Leads in the case had indicated that those individuals might be in imminent danger, ICE said, also pledging that it "would do everything in its power" to ensure their safety.

The ongoing investigation is being carried out by a "Tunnel Task Force" composed of ICE, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency.

After receiving a lead from U.S. investigators, Mexican police obtained a warrant January 29 to search a warehouse in the Mexican city of Tijuana thought to conceal the tunnel's other entrance. Mexican police recovered more than 2 tons of marijuana at the warehouse, stacked in bales.

ICE said the discovery of the drug tunnel results from a long-term investigation by the Tunnel Task Force. The task force is using an array of high-tech equipment and intelligence to pinpoint the location of underground passageways along the California-Mexico border. Since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks against the United States, U.S. authorities have discovered more than 20 cross-border tunnels in California and Arizona.

Miguel Unzueta, special agent-in-charge for ICE investigations in San Diego, said the probe of the Otay Mesa-Tijuana drug tunnel is "progressing very quickly," adding, "The Task Force is working tirelessly to bring those responsible for this audacious crime to justice."

For information on U.S. policies, see [Mexico](#).

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

46. Jamaica: Brit jailed and fined for drug smuggling (Radio Jamaica, 31 Jan 2006)

A British man who attempted to smuggle a large shipment of ganja out of the country two weeks ago has been sentenced to three years imprisonment. Colin Calvin pleaded guilty to drug trafficking charges when he appeared in the Half-Way-Tree Criminal Court on Monday. The narcotics police reported that Calvin was trying to smuggle 50 pounds of ganja out of Jamaica when he was arrested at the Norman Manley International Airport.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.radiojamaica.com/news/story.php?category=2&story=22749>

47. Colombian farmers launch Coke rivals (BBC, 1 Feb 2006) - Very interesting article!

The Fernandez family has found new markets for the coca leaves, the main ingredient used to make cocaine, which are piled up in front of their home in the mountains of western Colombia. Growing coca in the Colombian mountains is hard work But the project ought to worry Coke, Pepsi and Seagram's more than drug enforcement officials. The leaves are destined to become ingredients in coca-flavoured wine, soft drinks, tea and cookies. "The idea is to give [the coca leaf] a new image," says Jairo Pardo Fernandez, who with his six brothers and sisters tends the family's 60 coca bushes. "People have always looked at coca as something bad, but it also has its good uses."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/4623350.stm>

48. European heroin smuggling in Turkish hands: report (NTVMSNBC, 1 Feb 2006)

The report released late Tuesday by the Council of Europe on heroin smuggling said that a large part of the illicit trade was controlled by the Turkish mafia.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.ntvmsnbc.com/news/359589.asp>

49. South Africa: UN roped in on cocaine stash (News24.com, 30 Jan 2006)

Nairobi - Kenya on Monday asked a United Nations narcotics panel to oversee the destruction of 1.3 tons of cocaine seized in late 2004, a record haul that had become the subject of corruption and evidence tampering allegations. Government spokesperson Alfred Mutua said the invitation was issued to the UN body so as to quell controversy surrounding the status of the seizure, worth \$83.3m, in which eight people, including two Italians, were now on trial. All had pleaded not guilty to trafficking charges.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.news24.com/News24/Africa/News/0,,2-11-1447_1872351,00.html

50. Iran: 12,586 kg of drug seized in Isfahan since March (IranMania, 31 Jan 2006)

Secretary general of Isfahan province's Drug-Control Council said that over 12,586 kg of narcotics have been seized in the province since the beginning of the current Iranian year (Started March 21), IRNA reported. Mahmoud Soltani added that the figure is 73 percent higher than the same period last year. He said that over 60 percent of the drugs are chemical based which shows a changing habit of drug use in the province. He said that new and innovative approaches are needed to confront the drug trafficking and use. Despite its unceasing anti-drug efforts, Iran is still a key route for southwest Asian drugs on their way to lucrative markets in Europe and Persian Gulf countries.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?V5DD12F8C>

51. Pakistan for increasing USA assistance in fight against Narcotics (Pakistan Times, 31 Jan 2006)

ISLAMABAD: The Federal minister for Narcotics control, Ghous Bux Khan Mahar Tuesday said that USA should increase financial assistance for Pakistan government in the fight against narcotics trafficking. In a meeting with US Assistant Secretary State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, Miss, Anne Patterson here, he said the US government has so far provided \$ 268.804 to Pakistan as grant for combating narcotics. He added that USA and Canada were helping Pakistan in this fight by providing funds and imparting training to Anti Narcotics Force's officers.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://pakistanimes.net/top1020606.htm>

52. China: Customs cracks 60,000 smuggling cases 2001-05 (Xinhuanet, 30 Jan 2006)

BEIJING - Chinese customs cracked down on a total of 60,059 smuggling cases in the past five years, involving 35.57 billion yuan (4.4 billion US dollars) worth of goods, according to the General Administration of Customs. The administration said from 2001 to 2005, a total of 15,725 suspects were prosecuted for smuggling, with 7,687 arrested. The customs enhanced enforcement over smuggling in recent years, especially smuggling

of important goods such as oil, cigarettes, vehicles, steel products and telecommunications equipment. In the past five years the customs also seized 15,242 kilograms of drugs.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2006-01/30/content_4119367.htm

CYBERTHREAT & THEFT

53. DHS to run cybersecurity exercise (FCW, 31 Jan 2006)

The Homeland Security Department is scheduled to test federal and private-sector readiness for cyberattacks next week, an industry executive said. The national exercise, named Cyber Storm, will take place Feb. 6-10, said Scott Algeier, executive director of the Information Technology Information Sharing and Analysis Center (IT-ISAC). Cyber Storm is a federally mandated and funded exercise to “see how cyberattacks against critical infrastructure might play out and how people react to them,” Algeier said. The exercise looks at cyberattacks on critical infrastructure that is not traditionally evaluated from a cyber perspective, Algeier said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fcw.com/article92160-01-31-06-Web>

54. Security companies gang up on spyware (c|net, 30 Jan 2006)

Five makers of security software on Monday said they have created guidelines for defining spyware and for testing anti-spyware products. The companies--McAfee, Symantec, Trend Micro, ICSA Labs and Thompson Cyber Security Labs--say that [their guidelines](#) could ultimately result in a standard method that buyers can use to rate and evaluate anti-spyware products. The software makers are part of a larger organization, called [the Anti-Spyware Coalition](#), which is working to [standardize industry terms](#) and technology for battling spyware.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://news.com.com/2061-10789_3-6032955.html

55. Second-Hand Computers Pose Identity Theft Threat (Physorg.com, 30 Jan 2006)

A new identity theft study conducted by leading University of Leicester criminologist, Professor Martin Gill found that second-hand computers - which account for one in 12 computers in use worldwide - can be a potential treasure trove of personal information - putting users at risk of fraud and identity theft. The study urges personal and business computer users to ensure that all data is removed from their computers prior to disposing of them.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.physorg.com/news10369.html>

TECHNOLOGY

56. 3-D face recognition technology guards GSA (FCW, 30 Jan 2006)

The Homeland Security Department has completed a successful pilot program that uses 3-D biometric facial recognition technology to control access to General Services

Administration buildings. The Federal Protective Service, a DHS agency that protects GSA buildings nationwide, is using equipment from A4Vision to identify and verify identities of people using one entrance to GSA regional headquarters in Auburn, Wash., said Ryan Zlockie, director of product management at A4Vision, today. FPS recommends security practices and technology for federal agencies that lease space in GSA buildings, said Don Bowman, FPS' acting regional director, in a statement.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fcw.com/article92144-01-30-06-Web>

57. New York's XML Web site gets good grades (FCW, 30 Jan 2006)

Officials from five New York state agencies presented last week encouraging benefits from a test bed project using Extensible Markup Language (XML) for Web site management. Last summer, the five agencies were selected to be part of the XML project to create an XML-based Web site prototype and business case analysis. Although XML is well-known for facilitating effective data exchange, researchers at the Center for Technology in Government (CTG) are testing its applicability in managing Web content as an alternative to HTML. CTG's project is the first known to examine how government agencies can see such improvements. Agency representatives participated in six months of hands-on training and workshops before sharing findings at a Jan. 25 event.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fcw.com/article92138-01-30-06-Web>

58. Israeli intruder detection systems to be distributed in US (Israel 21c, 29 Jan 2006 Issue)

General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems has entered into an exclusive teaming agreement with Controp Precision Technologies Ltd. of Israel to become the sole US distributor of the Israeli SPIDER and CEDAR Electro-Optic long-range intruder detection systems. The systems provide high-resolution, automated surveillance from either fixed or mobile platforms. "We recognize the superior capabilities of both the SPIDER and CEDAR systems for motion detection," said Richard Davitt, vice president and general manager of Precision Systems for General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems. "This agreement allows General Dynamics to further enhance our homeland security and force protection offerings with these unique systems capabilities." The SPIDER and CEDAR systems will provide enhanced intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance technologies to US military forces for force protection and border security missions, allowing them to gain better situational awareness.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?Z1ED21F8C>

RESOURCES

59. U.S. Hazardous Materials Management Professionals Teaching Course in India (Homeland Response, 31 Jan 2006)

Members of the Academy of Certified Hazardous Materials Managers (ACHMM) leadership will travel to India Feb. 6-12 to teach its National Overview Course (NOC) and to participate in several special events surrounding the opening of its first-ever

international chapter. "This delegation is a historic step in expanding international awareness and recognition for the Academy of Certified Hazardous Materials Managers," said ACHMM President John Mitchell, CHMM. "We look at this journey as the first of many to heighten interest in the certified hazardous materials managers credential to a larger and more diverse audience as well as expand awareness for good stewardship and management of hazardous materials."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?I1FB4209C>

OPPORTUNITIES

60. SSA seeks data recovery software (FCW, 31 Jan 2006)

The Social Security Administration is seeking information about disaster recovery software for the IBM zSeries mainframe. "The software product needs to minimize data loss and service outage time in the event of a disaster by logging database system update information in real time at another site," according to a notice the agency published today. "The product should also duplicate log or journal data and other recovery information at an alternate site and use that data to recover databases to within seconds of the disaster," the notice states.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fcw.com/article92154-01-31-06-Web>

61. DHS asks industry to help secure borders (GovExec.com, By Chris Strohm, 31 Jan 2006)

Homeland Security Department officials said last week they are open to ideas from the private sector on improving the nation's border security, including outsourcing work currently done by government employees and using satellites to monitor remote regions. Hundreds of representatives from private companies crammed into an auditorium at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington Thursday for a presentation on the department's multibillion-dollar Secure Border Initiative. "This is an unusual invitation," Homeland Security Deputy Secretary Michael Jackson told the crowd. "We're asking you to come back and tell us how to do our business."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33260&dcn=e_gvet

FULL REPORTS

62. Feds Expand Money Laundering Investigations (The Conservative Voice, by Jim Kouri, 29 Jan 2006)

At a Washington, DC ceremony to unveil the national Money Laundering Threat Assessment, Department of Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Julie Myers highlighted their innovative efforts and ongoing commitment to combat those money laundering threats identified in the report.

"[Immigration and Customs Enforcement] is proud of its substantial contributions to the government's first national Money Laundering Threat Assessment. We look forward to

working with our partners in formulating a comprehensive strategy to address these threats,” said Assistant Secretary Myers. “Over the past few years, ICE has dramatically expanded its anti-money laundering efforts to address those financial systems most vulnerable to criminal and terrorist exploitation.”

Since ICE was created in 2003, the number of arrests resulting from ICE financial investigations increased from 1,224 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 to 1,567 in FY 2005, while the number of indictments increased from 865 to 932. The number of convictions increased from 703 to 823. ICE financial investigations have resulted in the seizure of more than \$477 million over the past three fiscal years.

The increases stem, in part, from the expansion of ICE’s financial authorities to address human smuggling and other immigration violations. Prior to the creation of ICE, there was no systemic effort to target the financial infrastructure of human smuggling and trafficking. Today, ICE is combining its financial and immigration authorities in a coordinated campaign that focuses on the underlying financial systems most vulnerable to exploitation. Below are examples of how ICE is addressing some of these threats.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.theconservativevoice.com/article/11931.html>

63. Inadvertent Disclosures Of Classified Nuclear Info (Contributed by Steven Aftergood, Federation of American Scientists, www.fas.org)

The Department of Energy has released a sanitized version of its nineteenth report to Congress on inadvertent releases of classified nuclear weapons information through the declassification process.

Out of more than 150,000 pages at the National Archives that were reviewed by DOE, 16 pages contained Restricted Data, and another 99 pages contained Formerly Restricted Data (which is also classified).

As in the past, the most common type of inadvertent release concerned the locations of historical nuclear weapons storage depots. However, some design-related information was also inadvertently released. All of this material has now been withdrawn from public access.

See "Nineteenth Report to Congress on Inadvertent Releases of Restricted Data and Formerly Restricted Data Under Executive Order 12958," November 2005 (released in declassified form January 2006):

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/othergov/doe/inadvertent19.pdf>

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