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CABLE Gram Volume 4 Issue 6

6 February 2007 CABLE Gram™

Good Morning All,

In the Current Update:

FEDERAL

1. Homeland Security budget generous to Customs, Border agency (By Chris Strohm, CongressDaily, 6 Feb 2007)
2. Port Leaders Say Bush Budget Short on Security Funds (CNSNews.com, 6 Feb 2007)
3. Retailers Urge Congress to Support Cargo Scanning Pilot Program (PRNewswire, 6 Feb 2007)
4. Judges weigh legality of domestic surveillance program (Los Angeles Times, 1 Feb 2007)
5. Agency targets human trade (Washington Times, 01 Feb 2007)
6. New Legislation to Secure Rail, Trucks, Pipelines - Senators Inouye and Stevens propose bipartisan legislation that would secure hazardous materials (HazMat Transport News, 31 Jan 2007)
7. Key appropriators may seek more rail security funding (By Chris Strohm, CongressDaily, 1 Feb 2007)
8. Limits sought on rail cargo (Commercial Appeal, 6 Feb 2007)
9. "More Robust" Security For BizAv? (AVweb, 30 Jan 2007)
10. Registered Traveler Debuts - Program gains steam as TSA turns over operation to airports and private sector (Airport Business, 5 Feb 2007)
11. Personal Interview Now Required for New Visa Applicants (Basta Pinoy News, 31 Jan 2007)
12. CDC to realign BioSense to focus on most populous cities (Government Health IT, 5 Feb 2007)
13. Senators criticize HHS over security of health data (By Aliya Sternstein, National Journal's Technology Daily, 5 Feb 2007)

14. GAO: Guard may lack gear needed for domestic crises (By Megan Scully, CongressDaily, 31 Jan 2007)
15. Panelists call for emergency communications mandate (By Chris Strohm, CongressDaily, 31 Jan 2007)
16. U.S. Probes Equity Firm Tied to Islamic Investors (*Washington Post*, 1 Feb 2007)
17. Scheme to sell military gear in Mideast nets prison term (Washington Times, 01 Feb 2007)
18. Thieves Stealing Pollution Devices (AP, 06 Feb 2007)
19. Who watches the watchers in surveillance society? (Reuters, by Andrew Stern, 05 Feb 2007)
20. Russia: Police shut down 200 companies that funded criminals in 2006 (Itar-Tass, 31 Jan 2007)

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS

21. CA: All-Access Airport Attire At Large (CBS2, 2 Feb 2007)
22. DE: Guard WMD team certified as ready to deploy in crisis (The News Journal, 3 Feb 2007)
23. FL: Police drone plan draws fire (Florida Today, 4 Feb 2007)
24. FL: Grand jury returns indictment against Brazilian evangelicals for smuggling money into U.S. (AP, 5 Feb 2007)
25. FL: Security tightens in Miami (Oxford Press, 30 Jan 2007)
26. IL: O'Hare security gap - Thousands of missing badges make it easy to get close to jets (CBS 2 News, 6 Feb 2007)
27. IL: Hamas activists acquitted of major charges in U.S. (AP, 1 Feb 2007)
28. LA: FEMA Wants Over \$300M in Katrina Aid Back (AP, 6 Feb 2007)
29. MA: Disaster Planning, Logan-Style (By Chief Robert Donahue, Massachusetts Port Authority Rescue Department, 5 Feb 2007)
30. MA: Suspicious Devices in Boston Turn Out to Be Ad Campaign for Cartoon (New York Times, 01 Feb 2007)
31. MO: Security Breach Causes Evacuation Of Lambert Concourse (KSDK, 2 Feb 2007)
32. NJ: Lawmakers target Newark Airport - House Democrats demanding answers from TSA on frequent security breakdowns (Star-Ledger Staff, 2 Feb 2007)
33. NY: FDNY Overlooked Bogus Degrees (AP, 01 Feb 2007)
34. TX: Security officers have seen it all at the San Antonio International Airport (Express-News, 30 Jan 2007)
35. VT: Maryland man pleaded guilty to smuggling illegal aliens into U.S. (Times Argus, 4 Feb 2007)
36. WV: Train carrying hazardous chemicals derails in West Virginia (Alaska Report, 6 Feb 2007)

KEY PEOPLE

37. Statement of The U.S. Conference of Mayors President Trenton, N.J., Mayor Douglas H. Palmer on President Bush's Proposed FY'08 Budget (PRNewswire, 6 Feb 2007)
38. Panel: Port security, intel remain challenges (Navy Times, 2 Feb 2007)

39. Director faces challenge of improving port - Port of Miami Director Bill Johnson faces the challenge of his career: turning around the financially strapped port (Miami Herald, 5 Feb 2007)

40. WI: Hamblin to guide crime lab (Wisconsin State Journal, 6 Feb 2007)

GANG ACTIVITY

41. CA: Los Angeles grapples with being 'national epicenter' of gang activity (Chicago Tribune, 4 Feb 2007)

42. FL: Mafia Boss Pleads Guilty to Racketeering (AP, 01 Feb 2007)

43. MD: Treasurer of MS-13 Gang Pleads Guilty to Racketeering Conspiracy (PRNewswire, 2 Feb 2007)

44. MD: Gansler aims to widen role, take on gangs (Baltimore Sun, 5 Feb 2007)

45. MI: Picturing the Detroit Mafia (By Bill McGraw, Detroit Free Press Columnist, 5 Feb 2007)

46. NY: Last Of The Gotti Gang (NY Post, 31 Jan 2007)

47. OK: Troubling signs - Juvenile probation official says gang activity increasing in county communities (Mustang News, 1 Feb 2007)

48. TN: Gang signs alert community to take proactive stance (The Daily News Journal, 31 Jan 2007)

49. TX: Gang Member Gets More Than 17 Years In Prison On Drug Charges (NBC5i, 6 Feb 2007)

50. TX: Gang task force arrests, weapon confiscations up (KHOU, 6 Feb 2007)

51. VA: MS-13 gang members plead guilty (Potomac News, 31 Jan 2007)

52. "The Mara Salvatrucha Organization and the U.S. Response" (PINR, 31 Jan 2007)

53. Mexico: New department to fight cartels is sought (El Universal, 4 Feb 2007)

54. Dominican Republic: Dominican ex-military, police operators assist the underworld (Dominican Today, 5 Feb 2007)

NARCO TRAFFICKING

55. CA: Meth crackdown fuels smuggling (Daily News, Bridget Johnson, Columnist, 3 Feb 2007)

56. FL: Tampa detectives bust drug smuggling operation (Tampa Bays 10, 5 Feb 2007)

57. NY: Drug Kingpin Guilty of Murdering Rapper (AP, 01 Feb 2007)

58. NY: Two Ithaca-Based Drug Rings Shut Down - Year and a half investigation ends with 32 people indicted on drug-related charges (All American Patriots, 2 Feb 2007)

59. NY: Afternoon raid targets major distributor (Lockport Union-Sun & Journal, 3 Feb 2007)

60. OH: Former drug boss sent to prison for life for cocaine ring (Dayton Daily News, 6 Feb 2007)

61. TX: Customs intercepts cocaine worth millions at Texas border (WFAA, 5 Feb 2007)

62. Canada: Dial-a-cocaine busted in Quebec City (CBC News, 31 Jan 2007)

63. Ecuador assails US antidrug funding cuts (FinancialTimes.com, 6 Feb 2007)

64. Peru: Brazilian caught with 4 kilos of cocaine at Lima airport (Living in Peru, 6 Feb 2007)

65. Peruvian Chef Looks Beyond Cocaine to Create Coca-Leaf Cuisine (Bloomberg, 31 Jan 2007)

66. Australia: 'Worrying drug smuggling trend' (The Australian, 7 Feb 2007)

CYBERTHREAT & THEFT

67. Hard drive that may hold veterans data missing (AP, 03 Feb 2007)

68. Malware Attacks Getting Much Worse (News Factor, 2 Feb 2007)

69. German court bars stealth PC searches (AP, 05 Feb 2007)

TECHNOLOGY

70. Scripps research scientists: Compounds show significant promise against potential bioweapon toxins (Scripps Research Institute, 5 Feb 2007)

RESOURCES

71. Pactiv Introduces New Hefty(R) OneZip(R) Travel Bags Designed For Airline Passengers With Carry-Ons (Business Wire, 6 Feb 2007) – Well, you knew this one was coming!

72. "Chemical Facility Security: Regulation and Issues for Congress," Congressional Research Service Report January 31, 2007

73. Canada: Cybercrime varies between cities (Globe and Mail, 6 Feb 2007)

EVENTS

74. FL: Techies assemble at area contest (Bradenton Herald, 4 Feb 2007)

75. TX: Maritime security will be discussed in conference 10-12 Feb (Caller-Times, 2 Feb 2007)

FULL REPORTS

76. Intelligence Chief Nominee Warns of Internal Terrorist Threat - Retired Admiral McConnell cites need for reform of intelligence community (By Jim Fisher-Thompson, USINFO Staff Writer, 6 Feb 2007)

77. Fact Sheet: The Coast Guard Since Sept. 11, 2001 (The Chief Engineer News, 6 Feb 2007)

78. New U.S.-Salvadoran Plan Aims To Stop Gang-Related Violence - Plan targets transnational gangs in U.S., Mexico, Central America (By Eric Green, USINFO Staff Writer, 6 Feb 2007)

Take care,

Zhi Hamby-Nye, Editor

Henry Ziegler, Associate Editor

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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. Homeland Security budget generous to Customs, Border agency (By Chris Strohm, CongressDaily, 6 Feb 2007)

The Homeland Security Department is requesting about \$37.7 billion in total discretionary spending for the next fiscal year, which is about \$2.7 billion more than Congress approved for the department's current budget. But Congress also gave Homeland Security an additional \$1.8 billion in emergency supplemental spending for border security during this fiscal year, which means the proposed fiscal 2008 increase is not much more than the total amount the department is spending in fiscal 2007. Nonetheless, all the department's major agencies would see an increase in discretionary spending. "This budget will ensure that the department has the tools and resources we need to protect the country," Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said during a news conference Monday.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36057&dcn=e_gvet

2. Port Leaders Say Bush Budget Short on Security Funds (CNSNews.com, 6 Feb 2007)

The Bush administration's proposed budget provides more money for port security than any of his previous budgets, but port authority leaders insist the allocation still isn't enough to provide adequate security from an increasingly sophisticated enemy. "While this is the largest amount the administration has ever recommended as a line item for this program, it is the same amount that Congress appropriated in [fiscal year] 2007," said Kurt Nagle, president of the American Association of Port Authorities, shortly after the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) [budget](#) was announced. "At the same time the administration is asking for an overall eight percent increase in DHS's fiscal 2008 budget, it is recommending that spending remain flat for port facility security," he said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/3c4qfc>

3. Retailers Urge Congress to Support Cargo Scanning Pilot Program (PRNewswire, 6 Feb 2007)

WASHINGTON - The National Retail Federation today urged a Senate Committee to reject efforts to attach a proposal for 100 percent overseas scanning of U.S.-bound cargo to legislation implementing 9/11 Commission recommendations, saying lawmakers

instead should support a scanning pilot program already approved by Congress last year. "This provision is unnecessary, unworkable, a poor use of limited resources and would threaten serious harm to global commerce and the U.S. economy," NRF Senior Vice President for Government Relations Steve Pfister said. "There is simply no need to revisit this issue. Rather than rushing through an ill-considered container scanning requirement, we need to let the provisions in the SAFE Port Act work." Pfister's comments came in a letter to Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee Chairman Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., Ranking Member Susan Collins, R-Maine, and other members of the committee. The panel is expected to begin work soon on a Senate version of legislation passed by the House last month to implement most of the remaining anti-terrorism recommendations made by the 9/11 Commission.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/38k2v8>

4. Judges weigh legality of domestic surveillance program (Los Angeles Times, 1 Feb 2007)

CINCINNATI - A lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union urged a federal appeals court yesterday to affirm a lower court decision that the Bush administration's Terrorist Surveillance Program is illegal and that "the president has to obey the law." But a Justice Department lawyer insisted the program is legal and called on the judges to overturn the ruling, while also arguing that the case is now moot. A three-judge panel of the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals peppered them with questions about broad constitutional principles as well as the issue of whether the ACLU's clients have standing to challenge the program.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2f15u7>

5. Agency targets human trade (Washington Times, 01 Feb 2007)

Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales yesterday created a Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit and assigned it the task of developing strategies to combat modern-day slavery and expand the Justice Department's anti-trafficking enforcement programs.

"With the creation of the Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit, we will expand and enhance our ability to fight this crime by working together with federal, state and local investigators to tackle the enormous challenges posed by this evil," Mr. Gonzales said. "We will continue to develop new ways to help victims and to bring their captors to justice."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20070131-112532-9528r.htm>

6. New Legislation to Secure Rail, Trucks, Pipelines - Senators Inouye and Stevens propose bipartisan legislation that would secure hazardous materials (HazMat Transport News, 31 Jan 2007)

The leaders of the Senate Commerce Committee for the new 110th Congress have introduced legislation designed to improve security for freight rail lines and pipelines and the trucking industry. On Jan. 4, Senate Commerce Chairman Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) and Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), the top Republican on the committee, introduced the

Transportation Security Improvement Act (S. 184). The comprehensive legislation re-establishes the TSA as the lead agency for rail and trucking security and authorizes \$1.25 billion for the agency over the next three years. The Transportation Security Improvement Act requires the TSA to conduct a railroad sector threat assessment and submit prioritized recommendations for improving rail security. The bill also calls for the TSA and the DOT to clarify respective security roles for rail security.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.securityinfowatch.com/online/Standards-and-Legislation/10421SIW320>

7. Key appropriators may seek more rail security funding (By Chris Stroh, CongressDaily, 1 Feb 2007)

Two key Democratic appropriators said Tuesday they will look at boosting funding in the Homeland Security Department's fiscal 2008 budget for rail and mass transit security and the nation's ports, but said specific details will have to wait until President Bush submits his spending request next week. House Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman David Price, D-N.C., said his panel will "probably" shift money within the department's budget to reflect the priorities of House Democrats. "It remains to be seen what kind of shifts might be called for," Price told *CongressDaily*, adding that he had not yet seen any portions of the president's budget request.

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http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=35995&dcn=e_gvet

8. Limits sought on rail cargo (Commercial Appeal, 6 Feb 2007)

WASHINGTON - Certain poisonous chemicals, explosives and toxic gases and liquids would be prohibited from traveling by rail inside the city of Memphis without a permit under an ordinance City Council member Carol Chumney plans to introduce today. The ordinance, in the works since last July, would prohibit chemicals that are explosive or are toxic when inhaled from entering the city except in an emergency. Railroad companies that maintain there are no practical alternative routes to going through Memphis would be required to obtain permits that would restrict the time of day when the hazardous materials could enter the city. Last July, The Commercial Appeal identified train cars carrying 2-Dimethylaminoethyl acrylate, acetone cyanohydrin, nickel carbonyl, and several other toxic inhalation hazard cargoes over a two-day period in or near residential areas of Memphis. All are listed as potentially lethal if inhaled.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2qctt6>

9. "More Robust" Security For BizAv? (AVweb, 30 Jan 2007)

Aviation security was back on the congressional agenda during a hearing earlier this month before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. The Jan. 17 hearing -- called to review recommendations of the 9/11 Commission -- featured one witness, Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Director Edmund S. "Kip" Hawley, who told senators his agency is "working on" a study of what else it can do to enhance general aviation security and that a "more robust" plan may be on the way. There were no specifics, but observers familiar with the TSA speculated the agency may plan some sort of extension of the so-called "Twelve-Five" rule -- which implements a number

of requirements for unscheduled commercial operators of aircraft weighing more than 12,500 pounds, but less than approximately 103,000 pounds -- at least to fractional operators and, perhaps, to private operators of aircraft in that rule's weight range (e.g., bizjets). Hawley's appearance on Capitol Hill came a week ahead of a U.S. General Accountability Office (GAO) report noting progress in all forms of aviation security had been made but that "continued federal action is needed to further mitigate risks."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.avweb.com/avwebbiz/news/194344-1.html>

10. Registered Traveler Debuts - Program gains steam as TSA turns over operation to airports and private sector (Airport Business, 5 Feb 2007)

What began as a pilot program by the Transportation Security Administration in 2004 is now a full-fledged program operated in partnership with airports, airlines, and private industry, while TSA plays more of a facilitating or advisory role. The Registered Traveler program (RT), designed to allow participants to avoid additional (they still have to undergo standard TSA security) screening at the airport by submitting to a background check and biometric identification, is now operational at a handful of airports across the United States and is expected to spread in the coming months.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.airportbusiness.com/publication/article.jsp?pubId=1&id=10128>

11. Personal Interview Now Required for New Visa Applicants (Basta Pinoy News, 31 Jan 2007)

The Department of State has recently released the final rule that will guide US consular offices on when personal appearance for interview will be required in nonimmigrant visa (NIV) applications. NIVs allow entry of an alien for a temporary period and for a specific purpose. The most common NIVs are the visitors' visa for business or pleasure (B1/ B2), student (F, M or J) and working visas (H or L). The final rule reflects the recent amendments introduced by the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (IRTPA) mandating clearer guidelines for requiring personal interview to NIV applicants. Prior to the 2004 law, the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) basically left the issue of waiving NIV personal interviews to be determined by State Department regulations. Generally, the amendments are already reflected in current State Department regulations. The most noteworthy amendment, however, is the limitation imposed on the consular officer's discretion to require NIV applicants to appear for a personal interview. Under the new rule, consular officers must now conduct personal interviews of all NIV applicants between 14 and 79 years old, the same age range covered by the biometrics collection requirement. Under the old rule, interviews were required for persons between 16 and 60 only.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.bastapinoy.com/immig0701.htm>

12. CDC to realign BioSense to focus on most populous cities (Government Health IT, 5 Feb 2007)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) plans to narrow the focus of its key disease surveillance system, BioSense, and proposes to reduce 2008 funding for state

and local programs and projects to respond to pandemic flu outbreaks by \$125 million, compared with 2007 levels. In the federal budget released today, the CDC requested \$57 million for BioSense in fiscal 2008, down \$200,000 from what Congress approved in 2007. The CDC said it will realign the program and narrow its scope to focus on public health preparedness in the most populous cities in the country. Overall, the CDC asked for \$88 million for biosurveillance programs in 2008, \$10 million more than approved by Congress for 2007 in the continuing resolution passed last month.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.govhealthit.com/article97564-02-05-07-Web>

13. Senators criticize HHS over security of health data (By Aliya Sternstein, National Journal's Technology Daily, 5 Feb 2007)

The Health and Human Services Department drew criticism at a Senate subcommittee hearing Thursday afternoon for rejecting a government auditor's recommendation that HHS craft a comprehensive approach for protecting patient data within a national health information system. A Jan. 10 report by the Government Accountability Office stated that the department has not yet created a plan for addressing key privacy principles or outlined milestones for integrating the results of HHS' multiple, ongoing privacy-related assessments. GAO officials advised action on those issues. HHS disagreed with the recommendations in a letter, stating that the department "believes that the tightly scripted milestones GAO recommends would impede our processes and preclude necessary public-private dialogue."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36046&dcn=e_gvet

14. GAO: Guard may lack gear needed for domestic crises (By Megan Scully, CongressDaily, 31 Jan 2007)

Congressional investigators have found that the Defense Department does not adequately track National Guard equipment needs for domestic missions, raising questions about whether the state-run units have adequate supplies to respond to disasters and emergencies on U.S. soil. In an unreleased report dated Jan. 26, the Government Accountability Office concluded that defense officials have recognized the need to track the National Guard's stateside stocks of vehicles and other gear available to respond to domestic disasters, but those efforts have not yet yielded reliable information on the equipment units have at their disposal. "Until DOD reaches agreement on a specific approach for measuring readiness for domestic missions and requirements are defined, it will remain unclear whether the Guard is equipped to respond effectively to the consequences of a large-scale terrorist attack or natural disaster," according to the report.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=35983&dcn=e_gvet

15. Panelists call for emergency communications mandate (By Chris Strohm, CongressDaily, 31 Jan 2007)

Members of the House Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee and a panel of national security experts criticized the Homeland Security Department Tuesday for not doing enough to ensure that state and local governments have interoperable

communications equipment, adding that Congress should mandate new standards. "If we can't solve this ... then you really question where we are in the department," said Rep. Nita Lowey, D-N.Y., who serves on the House Homeland Security Committee. "I don't want to place blame [but] we cannot, as the United States of America, get this done." She said Congress has passed legislation since 2003 aimed at getting the department to improve the ability of public safety agencies to communicate, but problems persist. Former Sen. Warren Rudman, R-N.H., who co-chaired the National Commission on Terrorism, said Congress should mandate what kind of communications equipment states should buy and set standards governing what radio frequencies they should use. "Why it hasn't been done better than it's been done is just frankly beyond me," he said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=35987&dcn=e_gvet

16. U.S. Probes Equity Firm Tied to Islamic Investors (*Washington Post*, 1 Feb 2007)

The counterterrorism division of the Justice Department is investigating whether a private equity firm in Boston that manages hundreds of millions of dollars for Muslim investors overseas violated tax laws. The investigation of Overland Capital Group was disclosed in a filing with U.S. District Court in Boston and reported by the Wall Street Journal yesterday. The filing claims that Overland and a subsidiary of Dar Al-Maal Al-Islami Trust (DMI), a financial group in Geneva, conducted acts "that implicate potential violation of the Internal Revenue Code." The filing does not mention terrorism, though it was submitted by a U.S. attorney who works in counterterrorism.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2uqq9b>

17. Scheme to sell military gear in Mideast nets prison term (*Washington Times*, 01 Feb 2007)

A former Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service (DRMS) official was sentenced yesterday in U.S. District Court in Washington to 33 months in prison and \$342,000 in restitution payments for illegally selling stolen surplus military equipment to Middle Eastern buyers. In pronouncing a sentence on Gayden C. Woodson, U.S. District Judge James Robertson said, "The word needs to get out to people who are representing this country in the field and in far-flung places that if the cookie jar is open, it doesn't mean they can steal from it."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20070131-112532-9743r.htm>

18. Thieves Stealing Pollution Devices (*AP*, 06 Feb 2007)

Thieves have long targeted car stereos, air bags, high-intensity headlights, even pocket change from the ashtrays. But now they are slithering under vehicles and cutting away the catalytic converters. The anti-pollution devices contain small amounts of platinum, rhodium and palladium, and the value of these precious metals has been rising sharply, making catalytic converters a hot commodity in more ways than one at scrap yards from Maine to California. "These thieves catch on quicker than us honest people," said Kennie Andersen from Andersen Sales and Salvage Inc. in Greeley, Colo. In Bangor earlier this month, thieves brazenly removed catalytic converters in a busy hospital parking lot in

daylight. Police also have fielded reports of thefts in recent weeks in Alabama, California, Louisiana, New York, North Carolina, Ohio and Tennessee.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtopnews.com/?nid=104&sid=1054942>

19. Who watches the watchers in surveillance society? (Reuters, by Andrew Stern, 05 Feb 2007)

In some cities in Europe and the United States, a person can be videotaped by surveillance cameras hundreds of times a day, and it's safe to say that most of the time no one is actually watching. But the advent of "intelligent video" -- software that raises the alarm if something on camera appears amiss -- means Big Brother will soon be able to keep a more constant watch, a prospect that is sure to heighten privacy concerns.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://0206czgram.notlong.com>

20. Russia: Police shut down 200 companies that funded criminals in 2006 (Itar-Tass, 31 Jan 2007)

MOSCOW - Russian police shut down 200 companies in 2006 which had funded criminal groups, Deputy Interior Minister Oleg Safonov, in charge of criminal police, said in an interview with the newspaper Rossiiskaya Gazeta published on Wednesday. "Organized crime eyes regions with developed economy, transport hubs, and large natural resources; because one can successfully launder money there in a short time," Safonov said. "It's particularly acute at present, as some regions will be overwhelmed with huge budgets to develop various economic directions and the social sphere. "Overwhelmed" because, regrettably, some projects are understaffed and lack many other conditions, and criminals see their chance in it. So the most difficult situation is developing in the Moscow region, the Far East, the Volga region and the North Caucasus," the deputy interior minister said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.itar-tass.com/eng/level2.html?NewsID=11204687&PageNum=0>

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS

21. CA: All-Access Airport Attire At Large (CBS2, 2 Feb 2007)

"It's like trick or treating. You're giving them the costume to do what they want." "If anyone gets these uniforms and badges they can pretty much walk in and do what they want." These airport security screeners are talking about TSA uniforms and badges. Nearly 800 hundred combined. Missing or stolen at LAX. The most in the nation! "They tried to play it off and say they were lost, but broke down and said they were stolen."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://cbs2.com/topstories/local_story_033213306.html

22. DE: Guard WMD team certified as ready to deploy in crisis (The News Journal, 3 Feb 2007)

The state's Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team has been certified by the Pentagon, which amounts to official word that the 22-member National Guard unit is

ready and qualified to help civilians respond to a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear attack. The team, based at the Smyrna Readiness Center, has been trained to expert level and will do nothing but stand ready to respond to terrorist attacks involving weapons of mass destruction. As the Pentagon's primary response organization in Delaware, the team will be expected to deploy quickly to help assess the nature of an attack and substances used, provide technical advice on a response, and help mobilize and coordinate federal and state resources available for response duties.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2e49et>

23. FL: Police drone plan draws fire (Florida Today, 4 Feb 2007)

PALM BAY - Police Chief William Berger vows to deploy an unmanned aerial vehicle despite contentions from the Federal Aviation Administration and a national pilots' association that his department must first get federal approval before doing so. Berger said the \$30,000, 8-pound aircraft -- which he likens to a model plane and would use to aid police on the ground -- does not fall under FAA regulations. And he said he is prepared to seek assistance from Brevard County's congressional representatives, if necessary. Berger said he has talked to the FAA but received no clear answer as to whether the agency could regulate the Cyberbug's flights. FAA officials differ with Berger's position, but so far the chief says nothing has turned up in writing despite a request for the agency to formally say whether the unmanned plane can fly.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.floridatoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070204/NEWS01/702040341>

24. FL: Grand jury returns indictment against Brazilian evangelicals for smuggling money into U.S. (AP, 5 Feb 2007)

MIAMI: A U.S. grand jury has returned an indictment against a couple who lead a large Brazilian evangelical church, accusing them of illegally smuggling money into the United States and making false statements. Arraignment on the charges is scheduled for Tuesday for Estevam Hernandez-Filho and Sonia Haddad Moraes Hernandez, who are free on \$100,000 bail but must remain largely confined to their Florida residence. The indictment, returned late last week, charges the couple with bulk cash smuggling, conspiracy and making false statements on U.S. customs forms. The couple filled out paperwork claiming they had about \$21,000 when they arrived in the United States, but they actually were carrying more than \$56,000, prosecutors say.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/yvlmy>

25. FL: Security tightens in Miami (Oxford Press, 30 Jan 2007)

MIAMI - Federal and local law enforcement officials have been planning for security for 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://tinyurl.com/2a4wg8>

26. IL: O'Hare security gap - Thousands of missing badges make it easy to get close to jets (CBS 2 News, 6 Feb 2007)

An airport worker, carrying a bag with a hidden camera, easily gets into O'Hare International Airport, onto the tarmac near airplanes and luggage -- without being screened by security. The video, recorded for CBS 2, exposes a side employee gate that lacks metal detectors, bag inspections and employee searches. It shows how easy it can be to access sensitive security areas. To gain this access, there is one thing needed -- an aviation security badge. Badges are worn by law enforcement officials, baggage handlers, pilots, flight attendants and independent contractors.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/259rfe>

27. IL: Hamas activists acquitted of major charges in U.S. (AP, 1 Feb 2007)

CHICAGO, Illinois - Two men accused of furnishing money and fresh recruits to the militant Palestinian group Hamas were acquitted Thursday of racketeering but convicted on lesser charges. The two acknowledged Hamas activists beamed broadly at the split verdict and defense attorneys immediately declared victory in the three-month trial that the government had described as a major component in its war on terrorism.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cnn.com/2007/LAW/02/01/hamas.trial.ap/index.html>

28. LA: FEMA Wants Over \$300M in Katrina Aid Back (AP, 6 Feb 2007)

NEW ORLEANS - In the neighborhood President Bush visited right after Hurricane Katrina, the U.S. government gave \$84.5 million to more than 10,000 households. But Census figures show fewer than 8,000 homes existed there at the time. Now the government wants back a lot of the money it disbursed across the region. The Federal Emergency Management Administration has determined nearly 70,000 Louisiana households improperly received \$309.1 million in grants, and officials acknowledge those numbers are likely to grow. In the chaotic period after two deadly hurricanes, Katrina and Rita, slammed the Gulf Coast in 2005 - Katrina making landfall in late August, followed by Rita in late September - federal officials scrambled to provide help in hard-hit areas such as submerged neighborhoods near the French Quarter.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://apnews.myway.com/article/20070206/D8N46K600.html>

29. MA: Disaster Planning, Logan-Style (By By Chief Robert Donahue, Massachusetts Port Authority Rescue Department, 5 Feb 2007)

United States airports operating under Part 139 regulations are required by the Federal Aviation Administration to carry out emergency response preparedness drills. At Boston Logan International Airport, Chief Robert Donahue of the Massachusetts Port Authority Fire Rescue Department leads his airport team and other stakeholders in these drills.

Here, he details one of the airport's most recent exercises, including what was learned and will be applied to subsequent events.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.airportbusiness.com/publication/article.jsp?pubId=1&id=10133>

30. MA: Suspicious Devices in Boston Turn Out to Be Ad Campaign for Cartoon (New York Times, 01 Feb 2007)

Boston temporarily closed parts of bridges, subway stations, an Interstate highway and even part of the Charles River on Wednesday after the authorities found what the police described as suspicious devices at nine places. But the devices, which included circuit boards, turned out to be part of a marketing campaign by Turner Broadcasting to advertise a cartoon television show, "Aqua Teen Hunger Force." Wednesday night, Peter Berdovsky, 27, of Arlington, was arrested and charged with placing a hoax device and disorderly conduct. On Mr. Berdovsky's Web site, photos show people putting the lights on a bridge, a hospital, a bar awning and a clothing store. Turner Broadcasting, part of Time Warner, issued a statement saying, "The 'packages' in question are magnetic lights that pose no danger." The statement said the "outdoor marketing campaign" had "been in place for two to three weeks in Boston, New York.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/02/01/us/01boston.html?th&emc=th>

31. MO: Security Breach Causes Evacuation Of Lambert Concourse (KSDK, 2 Feb 2007)

A security breach at Lambert-St. Louis International Airport forced the evacuation of Concourse A, which serves six airlines. Paul Mason, Chief of Police at Lambert, said police were called to the concourse around 6:20 p.m. after airport screeners found a prohibited item in a bag. When airport police and TSA security officers arrived a few minutes later, the individual and the bag were gone. Mason said the item appeared to be a double-barreled derringer handgun.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.ksdk.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=112091

32. NJ: Lawmakers target Newark Airport - House Democrats demanding answers from TSA on frequent security breakdowns (Star-Ledger Staff, 2 Feb 2007)

The heads of two powerful House committees yesterday asked federal aviation officials to explain relentless security breakdowns at Newark Liberty International Airport, saying Newark's lapses suggest deeper national problems. In a letter to Edmund "Kip" Hawley, director of the U.S. Transportation Security Administration, the lawmakers said they "believe the problems raised in Newark are illustrative of some significant areas of dysfunction at TSA that undermine aviation security."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.networksolutions.com/timeout.html>

33. NY: FDNY Overlooked Bogus Degrees (AP, 01 Feb 2007)

The city's top watchdog agency has criticized the Fire Department for awarding promotions to firefighters who purchased bogus college degrees on the Internet. The

Department of Investigation said Wednesday that 14 Fire Department members, including two deputy chiefs and three battalion chiefs, bought phony diplomas from a company in Spokane, Wash., in an attempt to meet the educational requirements for their jobs. The operators of the company, which did business as St. Regis University, were indicted in 2005 on charges including conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud. The case is pending.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtopnews.com/?nid=104&sid=1050599>

34. TX: Security officers have seen it all at the San Antonio International Airport (Express-News, 30 Jan 2007)

There was the human head, packed in a box, destined for the cargo hold in an airplane's belly. And then there were the body parts - a brain, lung and organ fragments - stashed in a plastic bag, which had a hole in it, causing blood to spill over the X-ray machine's conveyor belt. The doctor, who was taking the specimens to Dallas for an autopsy, watched nonchalantly, munching on a hamburger, as security screeners rushed to clean the mess. And let's not forget about the family returning to Mexico with a unique souvenir from their vacation on the Texas coast: a burlap sack filled with live hermit crabs. Welcome to the world of Transportation Security Administration officers, who have been patrolling San Antonio International Airport since Sept. 10, 2002, scanning everything including checked bags, passengers and carry-on baggage. A force about 250 strong, they begin work long before the sun comes up - the first shift clocks in at 4 a.m.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2bub8a>

35. VT: Maryland man pleaded guilty to smuggling illegal aliens into U.S. (Times Argus, 4 Feb 2007)

A Maryland man has pleaded guilty to a federal charge for his role in trying to smuggle illegal aliens into the United States through Vermont. Neftali Ibanez, 30, entered his guilty plea Friday in U.S. District Court in Brattleboro to the federal charge of conspiracy to smuggle illegal aliens into the United States. He is set to be sentenced on the charge May 1. He faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/24gw4e>

36. WV: Train carrying hazardous chemicals derails in West Virginia (Alaska Report, 6 Feb 2007)

HANDLEY, W.Va - A train carrying hazardous chemicals derailed early Tuesday about 25 miles from Charleston, West Virginia. The derailment prompted mandatory evacuations, although no injuries have been reported at this time. More than 500 people were evacuated in Handley when the 99 car train, operated by rail cargo company CSX, derailed around 4 a.m. ET. CSX Spokesman Gary Sease said 10 of the 16 cars which derailed were carrying hazardous materials. Among the chemicals being transported by the train were chlorine gas and chlorobenzene, Kanawha County Commission President Kent Carper told CNN.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.alaskareport.com/z45267.htm>

KEY PEOPLE

37. Statement of The U.S. Conference of Mayors President Trenton, N.J., Mayor Douglas H. Palmer on President Bush's Proposed FY'08 Budget (PRNewswire, 6 Feb 2007)

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Conference of Mayors President Trenton, N.J., Mayor Douglas H. Palmer released the following statement in response to President Bush's FY 2008 Budget: "The nation's mayors are extremely disappointed that the President's Budget proposes significant cuts to domestic programs, particularly the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), which has been championed for over 30 years by mayors in cities around the country as one of their most efficient tools to strengthen local communities. We deplore the proposed \$1.1 billion cut to CDBG and believe it is most unfortunate that this Administration has repeatedly attempted to devastate this program that invests directly in America's neighborhoods.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/3466z3>

38. Panel: Port security, intel remain challenges (Navy Times, 2 Feb 2007)

SAN DIEGO - While U.S. military forces hunt suspected terrorists aboard, the fight against terrorist threats to the nation's security close to home must warrant greater attention and resources. "We do need to appreciate that we are vulnerable," Vice Adm. Barry M. Costello, commander of U.S. 3rd Fleet in San Diego, told a defense audience Wednesday "Containers are cheap missile systems, or cheap bombs that can come into our country." Third Fleet's reach stretches up and down the coast of the Americas and out west toward the International Dateline. Vital sea lanes crisscross the vast eastern Pacific Ocean, hauling millions of tons of commercial goods, food and fuel on ships and in containers that are soft targets for terrorists as much as pirates. And those containers, and the ships and ports that handle them, might represent a major vulnerability that terrorists will exploit.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.navytimes.com/news/2007/02/ntpportsecurity070202/>

39. Director faces challenge of improving port - Port of Miami Director Bill Johnson faces the challenge of his career: turning around the financially strapped port (Miami Herald, 5 Feb 2007)

Port of Miami Director Bill Johnson talks a mile a minute, switches subjects at a dizzying pace, and leaves you feeling completely worn out after a meeting. He e-mails his managers in the middle of the night, shows up to work at dawn, and drops by at odd hours on weekends. That heightened energy level will be crucial as he attempts to steer the ailing, financially strapped Port of Miami onto a straighter course. The port lost \$6 million on \$88.1 million in revenue during the fiscal year ended Sept. 30, 2006, as cargo volume sank 8.6 percent to 8.7 million tons from a record 9.5 million tons in fiscal 2005. Revenue continues to drain this fiscal year, as cargo customers opt for other ports, including Broward's Port Everglades. Stopping that leak and improving the port's

financial health depends on keeping costs competitive by slashing wasted dollars spent on overtime for security. Troublesome issues that hamper efficiency such as congestion and trucker access must be addressed. And new facilities, including a parking garage, need to be built.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2rxle8>

40. WI: Hamblin to guide crime lab (Wisconsin State Journal, 6 Feb 2007)

Former Dane County Sheriff Gary Hamblin will oversee the state's efforts to reduce the backlog in the state Crime Laboratory. Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen on Monday appointed Hamblin to be administrator of the Justice Department's Division of Law Enforcement Services, which includes the crime lab. Hamblin told reporters Monday that reducing the backlog will require hiring more analysts and training officers about what evidence is most appropriate to submit to the lab. He said he wasn't sure whether other steps are needed.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.madison.com/wsj/home/local/index.php?ntid=117737&ntpid=3>

GANG ACTIVITY

41. CA: Los Angeles grapples with being 'national epicenter' of gang activity (Chicago Tribune, 4 Feb 2007)

LOS ANGELES - Here in the nation's "capital" for street gangs, Jose Aleman is an ex-gangbanger with 26 bullet fragments in his brain. Lucky to be alive and well, Aleman is eating a Mexican pasta soup in the Homegirl Cafe, run by former female gang members, when he's interrupted by an aspiring gangster half his age. They hug. Aleman, who has spent a third of his 36 years in Folsom and other prisons, is like a mentor and confessor. "I've got a job, man. I'm going to be working full time now," said Richard Hernandez, 18, who for the past few months has been unemployed and painting gang graffiti with his "tagging crew." Now Hernandez is going to quit running from the police, he says. That's good news, Aleman later remarks. It's one less recruit in a city that Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa says is "the national epicenter" for gang activity. With one recent study enumerating 40,000 members in 700 gangs in Los Angeles, the city is the originator and exporter of dangerous gangs gone national, such as the Bloods, the Crips and Mara Salvatrucha 13 (MS 13), said FBI spokesman Kenneth Smith.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.centredaily.com/mld/centredaily/news/nation/16620306.htm>

42. FL: Mafia Boss Pleads Guilty to Racketeering (AP, 01 Feb 2007)

The admitted boss of the Genovese organized crime family's South Florida operations pleaded guilty Thursday to federal racketeering charges and could spend 20 years in prison. Renaldi "Ray" Ruggiero, 73, admitted in a plea agreement that he was a "capo" in the New York-based Mafia family and supervised a crew that committed numerous crimes including extortion, robbery, money laundering and possession of stolen property. "I plead guilty, your honor," Ruggiero told U.S. District Judge James Cohn. Sentencing was set for April 27 for Ruggiero, who could also be fined \$25,000. Ruggiero pleaded

guilty to racketeering conspiracy, but did not agree to cooperate with federal Mafia investigators in his deal.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtopnews.com/?nid=104&sid=1018933>

43. MD: Treasurer of MS-13 Gang Pleads Guilty to Racketeering Conspiracy (PRNewswire, 2 Feb 2007)

GREENBELT, Md. - Melvin Murios-Garcia, a.k.a. "Strichar," 19, of Hyattsville, Md., pleaded guilty today to conspiracy to conduct and participate in racketeering enterprise activities of an MS-13 gang, announced U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein said. "We will continue to coordinate our efforts and use all available tools to combat violent gangs that engage in such vicious and heartless crimes," said U.S. Attorney Rosenstein. According to the plea agreement, La Mara Salvatrucha, also known as the MS-13 gang, is a gang composed primarily of immigrants or descendants of immigrants from El Salvador, with members operating throughout Prince George's County and Montgomery County, Md., and elsewhere. MS-13 is a national and international criminal organization with approximately 10,000 members.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/28v3yr>

44. MD: Gansler aims to widen role, take on gangs (Baltimore Sun, 5 Feb 2007)

Maryland Attorney General Douglas F. Gansler is seeking to broaden the focus of his office from prosecution of white-collar and environmental crimes to include investigations involving violent street gangs - a change that could boost his role but has stirred controversy among local prosecutors. The former Montgomery County state's attorney has been pushing to allow authorities to treat gangs like a criminal enterprise and to let his office handle large-scale or multi-jurisdictional investigations through a new anti-gang office.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2sjs2p>

45. MI: Picturing the Detroit Mafia (By Bill McGraw, Detroit Free Press Columnist, 5 Feb 2007)

You've seen the Arcadia Publishing books in your local bookstore. They are the photo-filled paperbacks that celebrate the uplifting local histories of Detroit, its suburbs, and assorted ethnic groups, generally taking a warts-free approach that plays up the bucolic and nostalgic side of yesteryear. Then there is Arcadia's "Motor City Mafia," Scott Burnstein's history of organized crime in Detroit. It is filled with images of bodies lying in their own blood, mug shots, FBI surveillance photos, Mafia weddings and wise guys with nicknames like Cockeyed Sam, Sammy B, Swinging Sammy, Jimmy Q., Pat the Pimp, Joe the Barber, Tony Pro, Tony Z, Joey Jack, Billy Jack, Frank the Irishman, Sally Buggs, Joe the Whip, Papa John and Black Jack. And Black Bill, Little Vince, Tommy Gun, Jackie G, Louie the Bulldog, Hollywood Ronnie, Pete the Baker, Tony Pal, Frankie the Bomb, Fat Jackie, Taco, Buster, Skippy, Bernie the Hammer, Pete the Greek, Bobby the Tiger, Tony the Fixer, Fat Jerry, Bobby the Teacher, Freddie the Saint, Superfly, Chicago Tony, Little Caesar, The Peacemaker, Young Mikey, Sammy Lou, Mike the

Enforcer, Joe Uno and Pat the Cat, among others. While "Motor City Mafia" is an unlikely part of the series, it's proven to be a popular one in metro Detroit. It's now running through its third printing, and Burnstein, 30, of West Bloomfield, has been asked to do numerous book signings. "I'm not trying to put these guys in jail," Burnstein says. "I'm not passing judgment on what they've done. Historically, it's important to the city. It needs to be put in some sort of record." Assembling the photos from local archives, his own collection and retired FBI agents, Burnstein starts his tale at the turn of the 20th Century, when Detroit's teeming ethnic neighborhoods spawned mobsters who struggled for control of businesses both legal and illegal. One photo of a police lineup from the Prohibition era shows members of the Italian River Gang, the Jewish Purple Gang and independent Polish gangsters. Burnstein writes that the ruthless Purple Gang ruled city street from about 1925 to 1933. Authorities say they were responsible for more than 500 local murders.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.wzzm13.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=69956

46. NY: Last Of The Gotti Gang (NY Post, 31 Jan 2007)

The feds yesterday finally stuck it to the only member of John "Teflon Don" Gotti's murderous inner circle who had never been busted. Infamous reputed Gambino capo George "Butter" DeCicco was among 13 alleged crime-family thugs nailed for a slew of extortion, racketeering, loan-sharking and money-laundering raps after a two-year probe fueled by a Mafia mole, authorities said. The federal case will involve hundreds of hours of damning tapes made with the help of the turncoat witness, a member of DeCicco's crew, FBI officials said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

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

47. OK: Troubling signs - Juvenile probation official says gang activity increasing in county communities (Mustang News, 1 Feb 2007)

Gang activity is on the rise in the Mustang-Yukon area, a juvenile probation officer told Canadian County parents at a recent meeting. About a dozen Mustang students, from elementary to high school age, are believed to be involved with the Gangster Pride Locos, Justin Smith, a juvenile probation officer at the Gary E. Miller Juvenile Justice Center, told parents last week at a safe schools meeting in El Reno. "We've got a whole rank structure, everything, for the GPLs (Gangster Pride Locos) in Mustang, and it's actually going into Yukon," he said. "Yukon High School reported three people that are claiming to be part of the GPL. It's supposed to be a branch of the South Side Locos."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.mustangnews.info/site/gang020107>

48. TN: Gang signs alert community to take proactive stance (The Daily News Journal, 31 Jan 2007)

Nothing is more frightening for a community, parents and public officials than the word "gang." It evokes visions of large groups of young men and women wearing bandanas, flashing hand signs and arming themselves to control their turf, whether for drug sales, extortion or simply to keep away rivals. We worry that our children will be lured by their

colors and the notion of easy money, cool clothes and a 9 mm pistol stuck in their jeans. Then, when they turn up arrested, shot, or worse, dead, we will wonder where things went wrong. La Vergne Police are trying to get a handle on gang activity as it creeps into northern Rutherford County from Nashville, while our other law agencies stay on top of it as well. Although authorities have seen some gang action off and on for years, La Vergne authorities say they've seen more persistent signs in the last six months, and they're ready to take a proactive stand against it.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

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

49. TX: Gang Member Gets More Than 17 Years In Prison On Drug Charges

(NBC5i, 6 Feb 2007)

DALLAS - A member of the Texas Syndicate gang was sentenced to a federal prison term Monday for orchestrating a smuggling operation that brought cocaine on military transport flights from Colombia to Fort Bliss in far West Texas. Ernesto Medrano was sentenced by U.S. District Judge David C. Godbey to more than 17 years on charges of conspiracy to distribute, and possess with intent to distribute, five kilograms or more of cocaine, the office of U.S. Attorney Richard Roper said. Medrano apparently oversaw the scheme while he was already in prison on other charges, said Kathy Colvin, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Attorney's office in Dallas. She didn't know what he was in jail for originally. _ Roper described Medrano's sentencing as the final piece of a larger drug distribution conspiracy case involving dozens of Texas Syndicate members.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nbc5i.com/news/10945599/detail.html>

50. TX: Gang task force arrests, weapon confiscations up (KHOU, 6 Feb 2007)

FBI agents are sharing information about the progress they've made in a gang task force that's focused on Houston. While violent crime is up, agents are arresting more gang members and pulling more weapons off of the streets. To fight these organized criminals, Houston formed what's called the Multi-agency Violent Crime Gang Initiative a year ago.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.khou.com/news/local/stories/khou070206_ac_gangtaskforce.57bcad87.html

51. VA: MS-13 gang members plead guilty (Potomac News, 31 Jan 2007)

Two gang members involved in the murder of an Illinois woman visiting Virginia entered guilty pleas for their part in her death. The men will be sentenced in March in Stafford County Circuit Court. Luis Serrano-Gutierrez, 19, of Woodbridge, pleaded guilty Jan. 23 in Stafford circuit court to first-degree murder, conspiracy, gang participation and the use of a firearm in the commission of a felony in the death of 21-year-old Shannah Marie Angeles. Serrano-Gutierrez, known by the nickname "Crimen," will be sentenced March 28.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/36rz9h>

52. "The Mara Salvatrucha Organization and the U.S. Response" (PINR, 31 Jan 2007)

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (F.B.I.) considers the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) the most dangerous street gang in the United States. The violent nature of MS-13 members results in a number of murders and vicious beatings. Already a number of cases, tried in Maryland and New York, have resulted in hefty prison sentences, even life in prison, for MS-13 gang members. Violence first attracted the F.B.I., but evidence of the gang's increased levels of sophisticated organization is an indication of a future where MS-13 has evolved from a street gang into a transnational criminal organization that stretches from Central America to suburban neighborhoods in dozens of U.S. cities. Horizontal integration of the gang is a primary concern. Smaller groups within the MS-13 gang structure known as "cliques" now communicate on a regular basis. The nature of their collaboration ranges from recruiting strategies and turf protection to the development of regional strategies that involve: protecting gang members from law enforcement through witness intimidation, targeting of police officers and rival gang members, collecting dues to support gang members in Central America and other locations inside the United States, drug trafficking, human smuggling, and extortion.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.pinr.com/report.php?ac=view_report&report_id=610&language_id=1

53. Mexico: New department to fight cartels is sought (El Universal, 4 Feb 2007)

The Public Security Secretariat will create a new department to focus specifically on battling drug trafficking and organized crime. Public Security Secretary Genaro García Luna on Saturday told National Action Party (PAN) senators of his plan, asking for their support in making the necessary legislative reforms to establish the new department. PAN Sen. Ulises Ramírez Núñez told reporters his party stands ready to support the reforms to the federal public administration law. García Luna also announced the secretariat will hire 8,000 new police officers this year.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.eluniversal.com.mx/miami/23274.html>

54. Dominican Republic: Dominican ex-military, police operators assist the underworld (Dominican Today, 5 Feb 2007)

Santo Domingo.- The Armed Forces' intelligence organisms investigate an operation at the service of international drug traffickers and gangs specialized in holdups and kidnappings in the Dominican Republic. The investigations are carried out by Armed Forces J-2 and the G-2 Military Intelligence divisions, as a result of a report by the Private Security Supervision and Monitoring section, which controls private security and vigilance companies in the country. General Tomás González, head of the regulatory entity, sent a report to the Armed Forces warning that private detectives are operating outside the law, dedicating themselves to locate industrialists and merchants to provide information which facilitates a kidnapping or holdup on the part of organized criminals.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.dominicantoday.com/app/article.aspx?id=22133>

NARCO TRAFFICKING

55. CA: Meth crackdown fuels smuggling (Daily News, Bridget Johnson, Columnist, 3 Feb 2007)

NOWADAYS, I dread sinus problems not so much for the pain and pressure as for the headache of purchasing medicine for relief. The Combat Methamphetamine Act of 2005, which trumps laws that had already been passed in many states, made stores move their cold medicines containing the decongestant pseudoephedrine - which can be extracted and used to make methamphetamine - behind the counter, limit the amount that consumers can purchase and require purchasers to present photo identification. Stores must also keep personal information about these customers in a logbook for two years. The regulations lend an illicit air to a legitimate attempt to banish a stuffy nose. Many cold meds now include phenylephrine, which doesn't carry the same restrictions - or efficacy. But if consumers view this new counter ritual as a small sacrifice to keep meth off the streets, they may be disappointed to see that tough restrictions at the drugstore have failed to dent availability of the illegal drug. Restricting pseudoephedrine may have shut down small-time neighborhood meth cookeries, but Mexican cartels have seized the opportunity to swoop into unconquered territory and make those meth customers their own.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.dailynews.com/bridgetjohnson/ci_5152555

56. FL: Tampa detectives bust drug smuggling operation (Tampa Bays 10, 5 Feb 2007)

Tampa, Florida – Tampa detectives arrested two men over the weekend suspected in a major drug trafficking case. On Monday morning, a judge ordered 43-year-old Jose Garcia of Brownsville be held on \$3 million bond and 33-year-old Ifrain Padro-Casado on \$2 million bond. Detectives say they're part of a drug smuggling ring that was importing cocaine to Tampa from the Texas-Mexico border. Tampa police drove to Miramar over the weekend to make the arrests. They say Garcia managed the operation and set up a deal to bring in about 70 kilograms of cocaine, which is about 154 pounds.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.tampabays10.com/news/local/article.aspx?storyid=48681>

57. NY: Drug Kingpin Guilty of Murdering Rapper (AP, 01 Feb 2007)

A notorious crack kingpin with ties to the hip-hop industry was convicted Thursday in a federal death penalty case of paying \$50,000 to have two rivals gunned down in 2001. A jury deliberated four days before finding Kenneth "Supreme" McGriff guilty of murder conspiracy and drug dealing. McGriff, who was acquitted on lesser drugs and weapons charges, looked back and smiled at his supporters when the verdict was issued. In the 1980s, McGriff founded the Supreme Team, a notoriously lucrative and ruthless drug crew that became legendary on the same Queens streets that later produced rap stars like Ja Rule and 50 Cent.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtopnews.com/?nid=104&sid=1028413>

58. NY: Two Ithaca-Based Drug Rings Shut Down - Year and a half investigation ends with 32 people indicted on drug-related charges (All American Patriots, 2 Feb 2007)

ITHACA, NY - New York Attorney General Andrew M. Cuomo and Tompkins County District Attorney Gwen Wilkinson today announced that a Tompkins County Grand Jury indicted 32 people in connection with their involvement in two separate drug conspiracies operating in the Ithaca area. The indictments mark the culmination of a one and one-half year investigation conducted by the Attorney General's Organized Crime Task Force, the New York State Police Community Narcotics Enforcement Team, and the City of Ithaca Police Department.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.allamericanpatriots.com/m-news+article+storyid-18848.html>

59. NY: Afternoon raid targets major distributor (Lockport Union-Sun & Journal, 3 Feb 2007)

Members of the Niagara County Drug Task Force worried that Gilbert Zaragoza might have some firepower inside his South Transit Street home. When the sheriff's department SWAT team burst through the front door of the home Friday afternoon, they found out their fears were justified. Zaragoza was armed with an AK-47 style assault rifle, loaded with a high capacity "banana clip." Luckily, Zaragoza never got near the weapon and a team of state and county drug agents broke up what they described as a high volume heroin distribution operation.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.lockportjournal.com/local/local_story_034105029.html

60. OH: Former drug boss sent to prison for life for cocaine ring (Dayton Daily News, 6 Feb 2007)

DAYTON — An ex-Los Angeles drug boss was sentenced Monday in federal court to life in prison for supplying hundreds of pounds of cocaine to the Dayton area. A jury in September convicted Ronald Taylor, 47, on charges accusing him of operating a continuing criminal enterprise and conspiracy to distribute and possess more than 300 pounds of cocaine. The operation funneled cocaine from L.A. to Dayton, Columbus, New York City, Buffalo, Milwaukee, Detroit, Nashville and Washington, D.C., between September 1999 and July 2001, prosecutors said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2ucz46>

61. TX: Customs intercepts cocaine worth millions at Texas border (WFAA, 5 Feb 2007)

LAREDO - Cocaine worth about \$2.6 million did not make it into the United States over the weekend. U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers took a second look at a 2002 Nissan Altima at the Gateway to the Americas Bridge, Saturday. A drug dog named "Tramp" checked over the vehicle and alerted officers to a giant stash. Several bundles of cocaine were seized. Reyes Marroquin was arrested on federal drug charges and turned over to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents. The day before, officers had seized a slightly larger load of cocaine from a 2002 Jeep Liberty at the Gateway. A drug

dog named "Erik" alerted officers to something in the floor area, and officers discovered more than 44 pounds of cocaine in a compartment. Carrillo Gonzalez and Maria Olga Medellin Vargaz were arrested on federal drug conspiracy charges. They were also turned over to ICE agents.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/3817zf>

62. Canada: Dial-a-cocaine busted in Quebec City (CBC News, 31 Jan 2007)

Police in Quebec City said they dismantled a major cocaine ring Wednesday that had provided round-the-clock home delivery to nearly 1,000 customers. Twenty-five of an estimated 35 wanted suspects were arrested in early morning raids across Quebec City Wednesday in an investigation police are calling Project Morse. Police say the ring is connected to organized crime and allegedly dealt more than one kilogram of cocaine per week, for annual profits topping \$1.3 million. "We're talking about bikers, Hells Angels. It's after the investigation we were able to demonstrate that the people worked for certain members of the Hells Angels," Francois Bouchard, a Quebec City spokesman, alleged.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/montreal/story/2007/01/31/qc-cocainebust20070131.html>

63. Ecuador assails US antidrug funding cuts (FinancialTimes.com, 6 Feb 2007)

Ecuador criticised Washington on Tuesday for proposing a 40 per cent cut in antidrug aid to the Andean region over the next two years, a move that will be seen as retaliation for the election of leftwing nationalistic governments hostile to the US. María Fernanda Espinosa, the foreign minister, said: "There are principles of joint responsibility and fairness, and under those principles the US must respond to the efforts Ecuador has made."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/17009051/>

64. Peru: Brazilian caught with 4 kilos of cocaine at Lima airport (Living in Peru, 6 Feb 2007)

Once again, a foreigner was arrested for intending to smuggle drugs outside of Peru. This time a Brazilian citizen was captured with more than 4 kilos of cocaine at Lima's Jorge Chavez International Airport yesterday. The young lady, Rafalella Souza (20), was detained at one of the Customs control points when Peruvian Customs agents discovered the 4.2 kilos of pure cocaine camouflaged underneath the lining of her suitcase.

According to the Peruvian authorities, Souza, who was on her way to Madrid, Spain, confessed that drug dealers were going to compensate her US\$4000 upon delivery.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.livinginperu.com/news/3144>

65. Peruvian Chef Looks Beyond Cocaine to Create Coca-Leaf Cuisine (Bloomberg, 31 Jan 2007)

Chef Gaston Acurio runs restaurants across South America that feature Peruvian specialties such as ceviche and manioc. Some also offer dishes that contain coca leaf, which is the source of cocaine. Acurio and a coterie of Peruvian chefs prepared a multi-

course dinner for President Alan Garcia and his cabinet in December. The menu, all legal, included desserts from coca-leaf flour and coca sour cocktails, a twist on the country's signature drink, the pisco sour. ``It's been over 100 years since an American found in the coca leaf the opportunity to make one of the world's most famous brands -- Coca-Cola," said Acurio, who has restaurants called Astrid & Gaston in Peru, Chile, Colombia and Ecuador. ``If we can find other legal uses for the coca leaf, it would mean the beginning of a new era in the Andes."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/238mjg>

66. Australia: 'Worrying drug smuggling trend' (The Australian, 7 Feb 2007)

DRUG smuggling is on the rise and young people who swallow drugs in order to bring them into Australia risk death by overdose or by execution, Australia's most senior police officer said today. In a fresh warning following high profile regional drug busts including Schapelle Corby and the Bali Nine, Australian Federal Police (AFP) Commissioner Mick Keelty said the prevalence of internal drug smuggling appeared to be on the rise. Mr Keelty said 28 internal drug couriers had been caught at the Australian Customs barrier last year, 22 in the last six months.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,20867,21185561-1702,00.html>

CYBERTHREAT & THEFT

67. Hard drive that may hold veterans data missing (AP, 03 Feb 2007)

A portable hard drive that may contain the personal information of up to 48,000 veterans may have been stolen, the Department of Veterans Affairs and a lawmaker said Friday. An employee at the VA medical center in Birmingham, Ala., reported the external hard drive missing on Jan. 22. The drive was used to back up information on the employee's office computer. It may have contained data from research projects, the department said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/16964322/>

68. Malware Attacks Getting Much Worse (News Factor, 2 Feb 2007)

Increasingly, organized crime rings, including many in Russia, China and South America, are behind computer viruses, spam and scams. With the wherewithal to hire high-tech help and manage major operations, their techniques have quickly made many security software programs -- perhaps including the ones you might have on your home or office PC -- obsolete. Forget the antivirus software, the crackdowns on "spam" and "spoofing" and "phishing," and all the attempts by computer companies to build more secure machines. Hacks and attacks on our PCs are getting worse, not better. The numbers are alarming.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.newsfactor.com/story.xhtml?story_id=0020002HD5J0

69. German court bars stealth PC searches (AP, 05 Feb 2007)

Police cannot secretly search suspects' computer hard drives over the Internet, a German court ruled Monday. The decision of the Federal Court of Justice in Karlsruhe bars police from using software to search through remote hard drives unless parliament passes a law explicitly allowing the technique. Police, however, still will be allowed to seize evidence from PCs when conducting searches in person.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/16994441/>

TECHNOLOGY

70. Scripps research scientists: Compounds show significant promise against potential bioweapon toxins (Scripps Research Institute, 5 Feb 2007)

Because of the high cost and limited applicability of currently available treatments, the newly identified compounds have the potential to fill the existing therapy gap and to provide protection against a bioterrorism attack using the toxin. The study is being published the week of February 5 in an online edition of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. "Our study is an important milestone in the fight against biological terrorism," said Kim Janda, a Scripps Research scientist who led the study. "These small molecules are the first to show efficacy against this neurotoxin in animal models. Equally important, both have surprisingly simple structures, so their biological activity can be readily optimized. With their different modes of action, they could easily be developed as part of a potent 'cocktail' therapy." Janda said he expects to develop more small molecule candidates as potential botulism treatments.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2007-02/sri-srs020207.php

RESOURCES

71. Pactiv Introduces New Hefty(R) OneZip(R) Travel Bags Designed For Airline Passengers With Carry-Ons (Business Wire, 6 Feb 2007) – Well, you knew this one was coming!

LAKE FOREST, Ill. - Pactiv Corporation, maker of Hefty(R) brand products, today announced it has expanded its line of Hefty(R) OneZip(R) slider bags to include the new Hefty(R) OneZip(R) Travel bag. This quart-size, clear plastic, zip-top bag has been designed to meet U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) 3-1-1 carry-on guidelines for air travel and conveniently stores seven to eight, 3-ounce, "travel-size" toiletry items. Hefty(R) OneZip(R) Travel bags are imprinted with the label "Meets Airport Security Guidelines" and an airplane graphic to let travelers know at a glance that they have the "right" zip-top bag.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/yw38gc>

72. "Chemical Facility Security: Regulation and Issues for Congress," Congressional Research Service Report January 31, 2007

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/homsec/RL33847.pdf>

73. Canada: Cybercrime varies between cities (Globe and Mail, 6 Feb 2007)

The first police profile of cybercrime in Canada has revealed stark variations in what criminals are targeting in different cities. While fraud was the most common form of cyber crime in Ottawa in 2005 — the first year such data was collected — in London, Ont., over a third of the reported crimes involved child pornography. The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics at Statistics Canada began collecting police statistics on hate-motivated crime, organized crime, street gangs and cybercrime in 2005. London and Ottawa are the first jurisdictions to have a full year of data. Of the 30 cybercrimes reported to London police in 2005, there were 11 cases of producing or distributing child pornography and three cases of luring a child via computer.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2j9b7o>

EVENTS

74. FL: Techies assemble at area contest (Bradenton Herald, 4 Feb 2007)

MANATEE - Lakewood Ranch High School was filled with planes, trains and automobiles, although they were of the small variety. The Technology Student Association held about 30 different types of challenges Saturday at the county's first TSA district competition. "Right now Manatee County is the only county with a district competition," said Michael Bachman, executive director of the Florida TSA. About 250 middle school and high school students got up early Saturday to participate in events that ranged from leadership and writing skills, to building gliders, boats and dragsters.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.bradenton.com/mld/bradenton/16618472.htm>

75. TX: Maritime security will be discussed in conference 10-12 Feb (Caller-Times, 2 Feb 2007)

Diplomats, lawmakers, military and scientific leaders from around the world, including 18 members of the U.S. House, will converge in Corpus Christi next weekend for a three-day conference on ocean security. The Washington, D.C.-based Ocean Security Initiative will bring leaders from more than 30 countries here Feb. 10-12 to participate in round-table discussions on promoting ocean, port and marine transportation security. U.S. Rep. Solomon P. Ortiz, D-Corpus Christi, helped found the organization in the late 1990s to protect commercial waterways. The first Ocean Security Initiative conference was held in July 2005 in Libya with the goal of promoting national, sub-regional and local projects to enhance ocean security. Open dialogue is important, Ortiz said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.caller.com/ccct/local_news/article/0,1641,CCCT_811_5323568,00.html

FULL REPORTS

76. Intelligence Chief Nominee Warns of Internal Terrorist Threat - Retired Admiral McConnell cites need for reform of intelligence community (By Jim Fisher-Thompson, USINFO Staff Writer, 6 Feb 2007)

Washington -- Retired Navy Vice Admiral J. Michael McConnell, the man President Bush has tapped to be the next director of national intelligence, told senators at his confirmation hearing he will focus on reforming the intelligence community to counter a growing terrorist threat from inside the United States.

McConnell was the Pentagon's top intelligence officer during the first Iraq war and later headed the National Security Agency, an information-protection and intelligence-gathering organization. He made his comments February 1 to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, chaired by Senator Jay Rockefeller.

If confirmed by the full Senate, McConnell said he would push reforms suggested by Congress emphasizing "integration of the intelligence community."

"We know that terrorist organizations today are making plans for attacks on our citizens inside our borders," McConnell testified. Previously, the intelligence community "focused almost exclusively on foreign threats outside our borders. What is new is the need to focus on these threats inside our borders."

To counter that security challenge, McConnell said he would use his new job as overall director of most U.S. intelligence operations, including the CIA, to push reforms aimed at improving "collecting and processing information ... consistent with our Constitution, our laws and our values to respect the rights and privacy of our citizens."

The position of DNI was created when Congress passed the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, that killed 3,000 people in New York and Washington and on an airliner that crashed in Pennsylvania. If confirmed, McConnell would replace Ambassador John Negroponte, the first DNI, whom President Bush has nominated to be deputy secretary of state. (See [related article](#).)

After working as a security consultant for private-sector companies like Booz Allen Hamilton, McConnell said he would like to apply "due diligence" and other results-oriented practices to operations "to focus on the needs of our [intelligence] customers."

Such practices include better sharing of information, more efficient acquisition and financial accounting, streamlined security processes and "deeper penetration of intelligence targets."

Asked if he would be willing to reform some of the rules regarding information gathering and analysis, McConnell indicated he would, saying, "We live today with security rules that literally were established in World War II and served us well -- World War II and the Cold War."

But now, for example, he said, some of those rules stand in the way of employing first-generation Americans who "might have native language capabilities" from serving in some "very sensitive positions in the intelligence community."

McConnell also agreed with Committee Vice Chairman Christopher Bond that the bigger battle for the intelligence community is in understanding radical Islamists and jihadists, the ideological struggle.

"My view is we're going to have to look at that very hard to reform it ... to get inside, understand, and perhaps influence the ideological battle," McConnell said.

Senator Barbara Mikulski expressed concern that McConnell's military background might affect his objectivity and ability to speak candidly to the president. "The military, by its very culture, says 'yes' to the commander-in-chief," she said. She asked if he could speak "truth to power."

"Senator, I believe that [the] first calling of an intelligence officer is to do just that – speak truth to power. In my career, I hope I have a reputation for having done just that," McConnell said.

McConnell said, "There have been a number of occasions in my career where I had to not be popular, but speak truth to power. What I found is when I did that, and I did it forcefully and I did it well, my reputation grew" as a manager of intelligence gathering and analysis.

Asked if he would have a channel for dissent and disagreement at DNI, McConnell said, "A manager, a leader has to know what's going on in the organization and there has to be a channel or multiple channels for dissent. I like to do what I call management by walking around." He said that approach provides a channel of information that flows to him and helps keep the system alert.

The [full text](#) (PDF, 77KB) of McConnell's remarks, as prepared for delivery, and a [transcript](#) (PDF, 87KB) of his confirmation hearing are available on the DNI Web site.

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

77. Fact Sheet: The Coast Guard Since Sept. 11, 2001 (The Chief Engineer News, 6 Feb 2007)

The Coast Guard protects America from all maritime threats - whether terrorists, drug smugglers, polluters, or poachers. They've instituted innovative programs such as Maritime Safety and Security Teams, enforced security zones, increased our intelligence gathering and analysis capabilities, expanded our partnerships with the maritime industry, international organizations, federal, state, and local agencies, implemented the requirements of the Maritime Transportation Security Act and the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code, and - most importantly - they've joined with other agencies within DHS to strengthen the borders and protect America's ports and waterways.

Specific Coast Guard accomplishments include:

- Transferred to the Department of Homeland Security: the largest federal reorganization since WWII encompassing 22 agencies and nearly 180,000 people.
- Spearheaded the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code: the code requires all ships and ports engaging in international trade to submit port facility and ship security plans to their home government. The Coast Guard ensures all visiting foreign vessels have complied with the code requirements and examines those foreign vessels deemed high risk for not complying with the code at an offshore location.
- Implemented the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002: aggressively implemented this landmark legislation that requires port security committees, security plans for privately owned port facilities, and vessel security plans among its many measures. The act significantly strengthens and standardizes security measures of our domestic port security team of federal, state, local, and private authorities, and authorized the creation of Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Teams.
- Developed Area Maritime Security Committees: the committees are comprised of federal, state, local, and private authorities to enhance security efforts in approximately 50 major ports. An outstanding example of the private and public sector working together, these committees stress teamwork, communication and coordination in fostering stronger port security.
- Required 95 Hour Advance Notice of Arrival: increased notification from 24 to 96 hours and required vessels to submit detailed and specific information (crew, cargo, etc.) allows for early security review and preventive action.
- Implemented Offshore Strategic Boardings: ships with suspect indicators arising through the notice of arrival process, which represent a risk to national security, can now be boarded hundreds of miles offshore.
- Increased Scrutiny of High Interest Vessels: close analysis combined with interagency coordination provides a protective plan for high interest vessels entering U.S. waters.
- Accelerated international requirements for the Automatic Identification System: successfully accelerated international requirements for ships to be fitted with the system, thus enabling them to be tracked by properly equipped shore stations and other ships. Has greatly increased maritime domain awareness and enhanced ship safety and port security.
- Implemented the International Port Security Program: assessed the anti-terrorism measures of 140 U.S. trade partners, and identified and conducted additional port state control activities on vessels whose countries failed to implement requirements of the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code.
- Completed Port Security Assessments: created port security teams to assess 55 militarily and economically strategic ports and an additional six ports. Completed special

assessments on several classes of vessels including ferries, LNG vessels, certain dangerous cargo barges and single skin tank vessels. Developed the port security risk assessment tool to assess and establish risk-based profiles.

- Created America's Waterway Watch: similar to Neighborhood Watch programs, it allows waterfront users to detect and report suspicious activity that may be related to terrorism. This public outreach program ties together traditional Coast Guard Auxiliary support of vessel safety checks, public education, visitation and public affairs while promoting public awareness and involvement in maritime domain awareness.

- Implemented the Rescue 21 project: deployed enhanced command, control and communications system along 1500 nautical miles of coast line. Rescue 21 fills legacy system communication gaps and greatly upgrades clear and protected radio connectivity to port/coastal homeland security partners. Rescue 21 includes rapid recovery assets which filled post-Katrina communications gaps.

78. New U.S.-Salvadoran Plan Aims To Stop Gang-Related Violence - Plan targets transnational gangs in U.S., Mexico, Central America (By Eric Green, USINFO Staff Writer, 6 Feb 2007)

Washington -- A new U.S.-El Salvador joint plan is aimed at stopping transnational gang-related violence in El Salvador and throughout Central America, Mexico and the United States, U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales says.

The plan is designed to help identify and prosecute the most dangerous Salvadoran gang members through programs that enhance enforcement, fugitive apprehension, international coordination, information sharing, and training and prevention, Gonzales said at a February 5 press conference in San Salvador, El Salvador, following his meeting with Salvadoran officials.

"This initiative will enable the United States and our colleagues in Central America to share information and coordinate law enforcement efforts as we work in partnership to target and dismantle violent gangs," Gonzales said. The attorney general said the safety of El Salvador is threatened by its "serious gang problem," adding that the United States also has a gang problem from such transnational groups as MS-13 and the 18th Street Gang. An estimated 30,000 violent gangs, with 800,000 members, operate in the United States, Gonzales said.

Gonzales said the United States recognizes gang-related violence is not an issue for just one or two countries -- "it affects the entire [North and Central American] region, and so we must work together regionally" to attack the problem.

The joint initiative with El Salvador is part of a larger effort by the U.S. government to combat gangs and gang-related violence in North and Central America. Gonzales said he has made fighting gangs one of his highest priorities.

REGIONAL THREAT TO GET A REGIONAL RESPONSE

The attorney general said the plan calls for two U.S. agencies -- the Department of State and the Federal Bureau of Investigation -- to assist El Salvador in establishing a new transnational anti-gang unit to pursue and prosecute gang members.

In addition, for better identification, tracking, and apprehension of gang members, the FBI will accelerate implementation of what is known as the Central American Fingerprinting Exploitation Initiative. The State Department and the FBI will collaborate to provide equipment and training to help law enforcement agencies in El Salvador and other Central American nations acquire digital fingerprints of violent gang members and other criminals who travel and commit crimes under different identities in El Salvador, the United States and other countries.

The plan also calls for the State Department to fund a new regional anti-gang program aimed at gang prevention, police training and the development of law enforcement institutions in El Salvador and neighboring countries. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) also is funding a new regional program to support public-private partnership in gang prevention and to further regional cooperation on this issue.

Another aspect of the plan will be a February 7 meeting in Los Angeles of police officials from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Belize and the United States who will focus solely on transnational gangs. Proposals resulting from that meeting will be presented at the third annual International Gang Conference in San Salvador in April.

At the second annual gang conference, held in San Salvador in April 2006, then-U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador Doug Barclay said that, "if left unchecked," gangs have the capacity to become one of the greatest threats to security in the Western Hemisphere.

Barclay, who finished his tour of duty as U.S. envoy to El Salvador on January 17, said gang leaders in one country "can order crimes that are carried out in another country. Gang members move amongst our countries to avoid police investigations. We must work together to stop the crime and the violence, and to bring these individuals to justice. We must have law enforcement networks that are stronger than those of these criminals."

USAID issued a report in May 2006 assessing the phenomenon of youth gangs in North and Central America. The report warned of an increase in accounts of gang-related violence across Central America and the United States. (See [related article](#).)

President Bush unveiled a \$150 million youth initiative in 2005 aimed at helping at-risk youth in the United States overcome the danger of gang influence and involvement. (See White House [fact sheet](#).)

Gang-related violence in El Salvador is also discussed in the State Department's [International Narcotics Control Strategy Report](#) for 2005.

(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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