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CABLE Gram Volume 4 Issue 7

15 February 2007 CABLE Gram™

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Take care,

Zhi Hamby-Nye, Editor

Henry Ziegler, Associate Editor

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

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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. State, local officials to get security data (Baltimore Sun, 15 Feb 2007)

WASHINGTON - Reversing course, the Homeland Security Department announced yesterday that it will allow state and local officials to participate in a new counterterrorism unit designed to share information about possible terrorist threats. The unit was created to address a long-standing complaint that states and localities do not receive timely threat information from the federal government, leading to the type of confusion that ensued over a possible plot to blow up a tunnel in Baltimore in 2005. Charles Allen, chief intelligence officer at Homeland Security, told members of Congress that the department supports the participation of state and local representatives on the Interagency Threat Assessment and Coordination Group, which will soon begin operations. "I pledge my staff's full effort to make this happen as smoothly and swiftly as possible," Allen said at a hearing of a House Homeland Security subcommittee.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

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

2. Senators unveil homeland security grant plan at odds with House (By Chris Strohm, CongressDaily, 14 Feb 2007)

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Joseph Lieberman, I-Conn., and ranking member Susan Collins, R-Maine, said Tuesday they are ready to propose a formula for distributing billions of dollars in homeland security grants, but opposition to their plan is already growing in the House. The new funding formula is included in a bill, scheduled to be marked up by the committee Wednesday, that would implement unfulfilled recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. "I do hope that the formula we are proposing tomorrow will be adopted," Collins said during a hearing Tuesday with Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. "One reason I believe it is necessary is because we need predictability in the funding so that states and communities can embark on multi-year projects to improve their homeland security."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36127&dcn=e_gvet

3. Lawmakers blast DHS officials for slow response to data requests (By Chris Strohm, CongressDaily, 12 Feb 2007)

The Homeland Security Department has failed to tell Congress how it is spending billions of dollars on major programs ranging from aviation security to Gulf Coast rebuilding,

House appropriators said Thursday. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff responded to the criticisms by calling the department's performance "unacceptable" and saying the situation would improve. Democrats and Republicans have hammered the department during three straight days of hearings for failing to provide timely information to Congress and for delaying federal investigations of its programs and spending.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36099&dcn=e_gvet

4. Distrust Hinders FBI In Outreach to Muslims (Washington Post, 08 Feb 2007)

The FBI's worst fears that hidden homegrown terrorist groups could take root in this country were fanned here in the summer of 2005, when four young Muslim men were charged with conspiring "to levy war against the United States" via deadly attacks on military installations and synagogues in Southern California. The men belonged to what Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales called a "radical Islamic organization" named Jamiyyat Ul-Islam Is-Saheeh (JIS), or Assembly of True Islam. They were discovered before they could carry out their alleged plans. But the high-profile indictments, announced at news conferences in Los Angeles and Washington, were unsettling to Southern California's half-million-strong Muslim community for a different reason. "They're not Muslims," declared Shakeel Syed, head of the 75-mosque Islamic Shura Council of Southern California and a government-approved chaplain who has visited the four men in jail, where they await trial this year. "They don't know anything about Islam."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/327j54>

5. FBI Reports On Missing Laptops and Weapons (Washington Post, 13 Feb 2007)

The FBI said that 160 laptop computers were lost or stolen in less than four years, including at least 10 that contained sensitive or classified information -- one of which held "personal identifying information on FBI personnel," according to a report released yesterday. The bureau, which has struggled for years to improve its sloppy inventory procedures, also reported the same number of missing weapons -- 160 -- from February 2002 to September 2005. Those weapons included shotguns and submachine guns, according to the report by Justice Department Inspector General Glenn A. Fine.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

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

6. Dolphins may protect the nation, one fin at a time (AP, 12 Feb 2007)

SAN DIEGO, California - Dozens of dolphins and sea lions trained to detect and apprehend waterborne attackers could be sent on a mission to patrol a military base in Washington state, the U.S. Navy said Monday. In a notice published in this week's Federal Register, the Navy said it needs to bolster security at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, located on the Puget Sound close to Seattle. The base is home to submarines, ships and laboratories and is potentially vulnerable to attack by terrorist swimmers and scuba divers, the notice states. Several options are under consideration, but the preferred plan

would be to send as many as 30 California sea lions and Atlantic Bottlenose dolphins from the Navy's Marine Mammal Program, based in San Diego.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/02/12/dolphins.sealions.ap/index.html>

7. Security devices falter in rail tests (USA Today, 14 Feb 2007)

An ambitious test of machines for checking subway and rail passengers for bombs failed to find a technology that can reliably stop terrorists such as those who attacked trains in Madrid and London, according to a Homeland Security Department assessment. The \$7 million government program tested futuristic screening equipment in major rail systems last year and found that each of the technologies had significant problems. Many machines triggered excessive false alarms, some took too long to screen passengers, and one "could not consistently locate the item that caused the alarm," according to the report, which was not made public but was presented at a recent rail-security conference in Arlington, Va.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2007-02-13-rail-security_x.htm

8. US still lacks strategic plan for airport screening (Reuters, 13 Feb 2007)

WASHINGTON - U.S. homeland security officials have made limited progress in developing and deploying new technology that can more effectively screen airline passengers for weapons and bombs, congressional investigators said on Tuesday. The Government Accountability Office said in its latest report that the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) does not yet have a strategic plan in place for acquiring and deploying advanced systems for screening passengers. "TSA is exploring new technologies to enhance the detection of explosives and other threats, but continues to face management and funding challenges," according to Cathleen Berrick, GAO homeland security director.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/bondsNews/idUSN1320444420070213>

9. TSA to Distribute AMBER Alerts at 450 Airports (info zine, 10 Feb 2007)

Kansas City, Mo. - Federal security directors (FSDs) and 43,000 transportation security officers (TSOs) nationwide will actively join the effort to stop child abductors. "To date 318 children have been recovered as a result of the AMBER Alert program," said Ernie Allen, NCMEC's president and CEO. "We believe that by partnering with TSA we can provide an even larger distribution outlet for AMBER Alerts and help to reunite even more children with their families." TSA will distribute AMBER Alert messages through the communications system of the national Transportation Security Operations Center (TSOC). As soon as NCMEC is notified that an AMBER Alert has been issued by law enforcement, the TSOC will relay that information to FSDs at relevant airports. FSDs will receive information such as photos and descriptions of the abducted child, the suspect and vehicle.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.infozine.com/news/stories/op/storiesView/sid/20857/>

10. Unpaid Airport Security Fees Approach \$200 Million (Aero-News.net, 13 Feb 2007)

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has a new mission -- bill collecting. The department says US airlines owe it \$196 million in unpaid airport security fees, and it's going to start collecting this year. So why haven't the airlines been paying the fees? Southwest Airlines, American Airlines and United Air Lines are among the 26 carriers contesting the fees, calling them unfair and excessive. AMR spokesman Tim Wagner told Bloomberg, "American Airlines believes it has presented a compelling case to the TSA that this money is not owed." DHS created the fees after new security screening procedures were enacted following the terrorist attacks of 9/11. When the government took responsibility for screening bags and pax it based its fees on current costs to the airlines.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2cd328>

11. Senators give TSA screeners union rights (AP, 15 Feb 2007)

WASHINGTON - A Senate committee voted Thursday to give airport screeners the collective bargaining and whistleblower protection rights that most other federal employees have. On a strict party-line vote, Democrats on the Senate Homeland Security Committee agreed, while all the Republicans voted against, giving the screeners the right to join a union and to be protected from retaliation if they report wrongdoing. The measure, which is opposed by the Bush administration, passed on a vote of 9-8.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/national/1153AP_Security_Screeners.html

12. Bush Recommends Level Funding for Port Security Grants (Port Security News.com, 12 Feb 2007)

In his Fiscal Year 2008 budget, submitted to Congress last week (February 5), President Bush recommended \$210 million for port security grants, equal to the amount appropriated in the current fiscal year. Port Security Council Director Jay Grant praised the recommendation for being the largest amount ever proposed in a President's budget, but he said the amount is still insufficient to fully meet the security needs of America's ports. Grant called on Congress to provide the \$400 million authorized annually by law for the grant program when it takes up homeland security appropriations. He said that our economy is heavily dependent on the nation's ports and that we are not doing enough to protect our ports against terrorist activity. Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Joseph Lieberman (I-CT) was also critical of the failure of the budget to provide additional funds for port security grants, stating: "Despite well-known and longstanding gaps in our ability to screen cargo coming into the United States, the President proposes no new funding for X-ray imaging systems at ports or for air cargo security in general." The budget does propose \$178 million for the deployment of both fixed and mobile radiation portal monitors at strategic points of entry throughout the nation. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said that those funds would help DHS meet its goal of having nearly 100 percent scanning of containers entering the country by land and sea by the end of Fiscal Year 2008.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://portsecuritynews.com/news/templates/registered.asp?articleid=1410&zoneid=1>

13. Ports plead for more security funding - New transport workers' ID to launch without money for scanners (The News Journal, 13 Feb 2007)

Persistent underfunding is delaying measures to enhance security at the nation's ports, the American Association of Port Authorities is expected to tell Congress today.

Underfunded programs include a new national ID credential that the Port of Wilmington is expected to roll out next month. "TWIC will have to be implemented whether there's money to fund it or not," said association president Susan Monteverde, referring to the new ID card, called the Transportation Worker's Identification Credential.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/ynqgoe>

14. Panama joins U.S. port security program (UPI, 12 Feb 2007)

WASHINGTON - The United States has signed an agreement with Panama to prevent smuggling of nuclear and other radioactive materials. The Declaration of Principles was signed Friday, the National Nuclear Security Administration of the U.S. Department of Energy said in a statement. The NNSA and U.S. Customs and Border Protection, or CBP, an agency within the Department of Homeland Security cosigned the declaration, which deals with carrying out the 's Megaports Initiative and CBP's Container Security Initiative. Both programs have as their goal preventing nuclear material being secretly transported through U.S. ports.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.upi.com/SecurityTerrorism/view.php?StoryID=20070209-045431-1754r>

15. At summit, port safety issue turns economic - Officials: There must be a mix of competition and cooperation for security (Caller-Times, 11 Feb 2007)

Cooperation while maintaining open global competition was the undercurrent of Saturday's conference on ocean security at the Congressman Solomon P. Ortiz International Center. The three-day Ocean Security Initiative conference, focusing on the maritime issues of the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea, continues today with discussion on recommendations made Saturday. During the conference, more than 200 science, business and government leaders from more than 25 countries will share ideas and develop a strategy for protecting the Gulf and Caribbean.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.caller.com/ccct/local_news/article/0,1641,CCCT_811_5344693,00.html

16. Senators question HHS chief about health IT issues (By Aliya Sternstein, National Journal's Technology Daily, 14 Feb 2007)

The head of the Health and Human Services Department was grilled Tuesday about the swelling medical costs to citizens. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., a proponent of health information technology, pressed HHS Secretary Michael Leavitt for explanations on health IT spending in the president's fiscal 2008 budget request during Leavitt's appearance before the Senate Budget Committee. Whitehouse argued that the proposed \$118 million for the office of the national health IT coordinator is too small of an investment to significantly cut the cost of treatment, preventive care and prescriptions. He

also noted that David Brailer left the job as health IT coordinator months ago and has not been replaced.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36129&dcn=e_gvet

17. Federal Protective Service may cut hundreds of police jobs (GovExec.com, 15 Feb 2007)

Hundreds of police officers would see their positions eliminated under a plan being developed at the Homeland Security Department's Federal Protective Service to combat a budget shortfall that has grown to \$80 million, agency sources said Wednesday. The police officers could be offered the chance to transfer to positions within DHS' Immigration and Customs Enforcement bureau, of which FPS is a part. But some might have to relocate to do so, the sources noted. And under the plan, "some of them will be canned outright," one source said. "It's really going to downsize the little districts" that contain few major metropolitan areas.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36134&dcn=e_gvet

18. Israel, US sign homeland security pact (Jerusalem Post, 07 Feb 2007)

Internal Security Minister Avi Dichter and his US counterpart, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, signed a joint memorandum in Washington DC on Wednesday evening, setting a series of goals and terms for security collaboration between the two nations. The joint understanding included partnership on flight security, including passenger and cargo inspection and information sharing on the topic of emergency planning, response, recovery and damage control. The understanding also encompassed sharing of research and development progress in the field of explosives detection.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/yqa6fe>

19. Violence Said to Increase on Mexican Border (New York Times, 08 Feb 2007)

Efforts to stop smuggling and illegal immigration have led to increased violence along the southern border of the United States as criminal organizations seek to continue their operations, Michael Chertoff, the secretary of Department of Homeland Security, said today. Testifying before a House Appropriations subcommittee, Mr. Chertoff said the department planned to spend \$1 billion for technology and fencing to secure borders and \$778 million to hire 3,000 additional border guards to further tighten entry into the U.S.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/02/08/washington/08cnd-homeland.html>

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS

20. CA: University Serving the Strategic Security Industry Changes Its Name: University Founders Sought to Reflect America's Rich Heritage in Strategic Security in a Name (PR Web, 14 Feb 2007)

The California University of Protection and Intelligence Management has changed its name to Henley-Putnam University to better reflect its online Bachelors and Masters Degree programs. Students from law enforcement, military, intelligence and private sectors can obtain degrees in Management of Personal Protection, Intelligence Management or Terrorism and Counterterrorism. Thus, to better represent the tradition and innovation of these types of specialties, the University's management team chose the name Henley-Putnam University, named after historical figures Colonel David Henley and General Israel "Don't shoot until you see the whites of their eyes" Putnam.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2007/2/prweb505148.htm>

21. FL: Coast Guard Repatriates 36 Cuban Migrants (USCG, 14 Feb 2007)

MIAMI - The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter *Kodiak Island* repatriated 36 Cuban migrants to Bahia de Cabañas, Cuba today at 10 a.m. On February 8, the crew of the Coast Guard Cutter *Reliance* interdicted four Cuban migrants on a rustic vessel 20 miles north of Havana, Cuba. The following day, a boat crew from Coast Guard Station Marathon, Fla., interdicted a go-fast vessel with eight Cuban migrants on board approximately 35 miles south of Marathon. A suspected smuggler was also detained and transferred to Customs and Border Protection agents for possible prosecution. On February 10, the crew of the Coast Guard Cutter *Sawfish* interdicted 21 Cuban migrants on a rustic vessel approximately 56 miles southwest of Key West, Fla.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.piersystem.com/go/doc/586/144688/>

22. IN: Emergency services to train for possible crisis (Indiana Daily Student, 15 Feb 2007)

When a fertilizer bomb inside of a yellow Ryder moving van exploded in the Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City, nine stories crumbled, 800 people were injured and 168 died. Things were bad, but according to John Hooker III, coordinator of Monroe County emergency management, not as bad as they could have been. Disaster training does exist and Hooker says it's a life-saving learning tool. Many emergency aid personnel at the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing had attended a simulated emergency training session less than a month before the real disaster hit.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.idsnews.com/news/story.php?id=40980&adid=city>

23. KY: Fort Thomas gets threat report card (Community Recorder, 12 Feb 2007)

FORT THOMAS - Increased school security and advanced preparation and training for fire and police departments were among the recommendations in a recent security assessment of the city. A week-long assessment of Fort Thomas by a Kentucky Community Preparedness Program (KCCP) team found the city to be "ahead of the curve" when it comes to reducing risk, but team leader Tom Lindquist said more can be done. Exact recommendations were not revealed due to safety concerns, but some general suggestions were presented. The recommendations included adding locks to schools and having police officers carry rifles.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2e5era>

24. MD: Bush plan would slash bay funds (The Daily Times, 10 Feb 2007)

WASHINGTON - President George W. Bush's proposed \$2.9 trillion budget expectedly received criticism from many members of Congress last week, including his own party, but the largest fear from those who represent Delmarva is that the Chesapeake Bay has been ignored. "We were looking for the president to elevate the funds, but he eliminated a number of programs that affect the bay," said Sen. Ben Cardin, a Maryland Democrat. "If it became law it will be very bad news for the bay." Even with this planned reduction, not all environmental dollars were eliminated for Delmarva in the president's plan. In fact, Bush's budget has added money for national parks, including \$574,000 for Assateague Island.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/ypzsgg>

25. NV: Airport director delayed trying to get through security (Reno Gazette-Journal, 7 Feb 2007) - Interesting Story, Interesting TSA Response

Anyone who's ever had trouble getting through airport security can take heart that it can happen to anyone, even the airport director. Krys Bart, Reno-Tahoe International Airport executive director, learned that Thursday morning before she flew to Atlanta. When Bart approached security about 6:30 a.m. for a 6:55 a.m. departure, she began to put her carry-on items and coat on the table to slide into the X-ray machine. A Transportation Security Administration employee, who security officials said did not recognize Bart, pushed an X-ray bin into Bart's belongings and knocked them to the ground. "If I get treated badly, I worry if customers are being treated the same way," Bart said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/33a7ju>

26. NH: Some ask if security grants too costly for cities, towns (Boston Globe, 11 Feb 2007)

When the city of Portsmouth, N.H., took delivery of a new fireboat late last year, it wasn't paid for by the city or the state. The \$350,000, 33-foot, twin-diesel watercraft was bought with money provided by a federal homeland security grant. "It took us years to get it," Portsmouth Fire Chief Christopher LeClaire said recently. "It makes the city a safer place." But some citizens feel there may be a hidden price tag. William St. Laurent, president of the Portsmouth Taxpayers Association, said: "I'm sure it's a benefit to the city, but every grant raises a question. It's a new toy for the Fire Department, but it has to be staffed and maintained. And, in the long run, it is the taxpayers who will foot the bill."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/27w6m3>

27. NY: Students under fire for video mimicking hostage taking (AP, 8 Feb 2007)

BROOKVILLE, New York - Five college students were stripped of residence hall jobs and are facing campus hearings over a video that mimics a terrorist hostage taking. In the video, five figures in ski masks speak in crude Middle Eastern accents as they threaten a mock captive - a rubber duck that serves as the mascot of a residence hall at the C.W.

Post Campus of Long Island University, Newsday reported Thursday. The video was posted on the Web sites Google and YouTube, the newspaper said, but it has since been removed. The five students involved in the video were dismissed from jobs as residence hall assistants, though Provost Joseph Shenker said they would still get free housing and meals in exchange for 10 hours a week of community service.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cnn.com/2007/EDUCATION/02/08/fake.hostage.video.ap/index.html>

28. OH: Local Emergency Management Agency officials train CERT group (Vindicator Salem Bureau, 11 Feb 2007)

LISBON — Officials want to increase local disaster response efforts with a program that has been a success in cities. Darren Dodson, Columbiana County Emergency Management Agency director, is creating a Community Emergency Response Team in the county. "It's a cool program," he said. The county EMA is training the first group of about 15 people this weekend and next weekend. Each person will undergo about 20 hours of instruction. Dodson hopes to have about 100 people trained in areas such as identifying and reducing fire hazards at home or work, traffic control, light search and rescue operations, how to search a building for injured people, helping with medical assessments, setting up a medical treatment area, understanding disaster psychology and even debris removal.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.vindy.com/content/local_regional/316532459924010.php

29. OR: Checkpoint mailing gives airline passengers options (Hillsboro Argus, 13 Feb 2007)

Commercial air passengers at the Portland International Airport can now mail prohibited items home or to other destinations directly from airport security checkpoints. Since the Travel Safety Administration banned most liquids on commercial flights, travelers had the choice of surrendering the items or getting out of line and storing items with a baggage service vendor. Passengers would then need to re-enter the line and go through screening again. Now, when passengers discover they have accidentally approached the checkpoints with items such as an expensive bottle of perfume, heirloom lighter or a favorite all-purpose tool, they can mail the items on the spot.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/yvxv9x>

30. OR: Police Investigating Bomb, Sniper Threats (KOIN News, 9 Feb 2007)

BATTLE GROUND, Wash. - Four Battle Ground schools were forced into lock down and were eventually evacuated Friday after a bomb threat and reports of a sniper in the area threatened student safety. Fire and police officials told KOIN News 6 that a 911 call came in about 9:10 a.m. claiming that there was a bomb inside Lewisville Middle School. They were trying to trace the call, which was from an automated voice. Students at the middle school were locked in the gymnasium until they could be safely transported to neighboring Battle Ground High School.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.koin.com/Global/story.asp?S=6067192>

31. TX: Ocean programs may set model for city - 6 nations to tackle maritime issues as result of meetings (Corpus Christi Caller-Times, 12 Feb 2007)

Scientists, politicians and business leaders from 30 countries at the Ocean Security Initiative conference did what they set out to do - create plans to make oceans safer for those whose livelihoods depend on them. After two days of discussing ocean security, participants created four plans to tackle port security and defense, disaster emergency response, economic security and environmental security. Leading these efforts are Colombia, Barbados, Jamaica, South Africa, Mozambique and Azerbaijan. Corpus Christi stands to benefit greatly from the programs taking place around the world, said Stephen F. Lintner, senior technical adviser for The World Bank, an international knowledge database and organization that acts as a funding source for developing countries.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.caller.com/ccct/local_news/article/0,1641,CCCT_811_5346027,00.html

32. VA: Police in loop on terrorism (The Virginia Gazette, 14 Feb 2007)

JAMES CITY — Since 9/11, billions have been appropriated in the name of Homeland Security. Last week Rep. Jo Ann Davis secured a \$227,360 grant for the James City Fire Department. The funds will be used to purchase 22 mobile data terminals to be placed in fire trucks, ambulances and cruisers. It's harder to quantify fiscally, but law enforcement from the FBI on down has been trading intelligence more readily. That's important here because of frequent VIP visits. In 2005 the Virginia State Police established an intelligence center in Richmond called the Virginia Fusion Center, which has reached out locally to all corners of the commonwealth. James City Police Chief Emmett Harmon said that getting intelligence reports from state and federal agencies is new for local police.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.vagazette.com/news/va-news3_021407feb14,0,4430807.story?coll=va-news

GANG ACTIVITY

33. CA: LA to Name Thugs in Anti-Gang Effort (AP, 08 Feb 2007)

Abandoning the long-held belief that naming the worst gangs boosts their street image, the mayor and police chief identified 11 of the most violent groups Thursday and promised to confront them with more law enforcement. Authorities are reversing strategy in response to a surge in gang bloodshed that has defied the city's continuing drop in overall crime. The Police Department says the city has 400 gangs with about 39,000 members, though other agencies estimate there are more than 700 groups. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and police Chief William Bratton were to announce the plans Thursday at a police station in a San Fernando Valley neighborhood where gang crime more than doubled last year.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtopnews.com/?nid=104&sid=1038962>

34. Ku Klux Klan reportedly on the rise (Reuters, 08 Feb 2007)

The white supremacist Ku Klux Klan is on the rise in the United States and is exploiting the issue of illegal immigration to attract new members, according to a new report by the Anti-Defamation League. The Klan has declined dramatically since the 1960s when its members dressed in white robes, burned crosses and spread terror through lynchings but immigration is helping to revive its fortunes, said the league which monitors hate groups. "The (Klan's) thinking is that if the average Joe is against immigration then we are against it too. They are trying to gain a foothold in the mainstream community," said Allen Kohlhepp of the league's southeast region on Thursday.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSN0845822420070208>

35. Key Farc role in US cocaine trade (BBC, 13 Feb 2007)

Ninety per cent of cocaine reaching the United States comes from Colombia - most of it via Farc rebels, a senior US official has told a magazine. The Drugs Enforcement Agency's Michael Braun described the Farc as "half terrorists, half traffickers - the face of global crime in the 21st Century". The left-wing guerrilla army is thought to be one of the world's most powerful. Colombia's right-wing paramilitaries - players in the country's civil conflict - are also involved in the drug trade. Under what is known as Plan Colombia, the US has given \$3bn in mainly military aid to Colombia to fight the drugs trade.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/6353449.stm>

36. Latino Gang Study Finds Few Links To Overseas Groups (Washington Post, 08 Feb 2007)

A study of Latino gangs in the Washington area and five Central American nations debunks the popular belief that the gangs are engaged in a systematic, organized effort to spread their influence. Although the gangs have significant membership, the study found that their crimes are largely limited to petty theft and neighborhood extortion rather than some of those traditionally associated with organized crime - drug trafficking, prostitution, human smuggling and arms sales.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/yolv3o>

37. Police chiefs meet to fight cross-border gangs (Reuters, 08 Feb 2007)

Declaring Los Angeles the gang capital of America, U.S. crimefighters met police chiefs from five Central American countries Wednesday to co-ordinate efforts to fight cross-border gangs. Top police officers from Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Belize, and Canada joined law enforcement officials from Los Angeles and other U.S. cities for the three-day conference on transnational gangs responsible for murders, drugs and weapons smuggling. Nicaragua was not represented.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/17041279/from/RS.3/>

38. Armed gangs fleeing from Haiti cross the Dominican border, the Military says (Dominican Today, 13 Feb 2007)

Santo Domingo. - Dominican Military Intelligence revealed that gangs of Haitians which flee persecution from their country's authorities and have taken refuge in the border zone have crossed to Dominican territory to steal and commit other crimes. The Army's Intelligence Division (G-2) said that in the last weeks 27 guns have been confiscated from as many Haitians who would have used them to commit robberies and other crimes in the Dominican border region. The authorities said that the weapons seized include pistols and the homemade 'chilenas.' The confiscations were conducted in border communities of Dajabón, Elías Piña and Jimaní provinces, among others.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.dominicantoday.com/app/article.aspx?id=22402>

NARCO TRAFFICKING

39. NC: Law Lets N.C. Tribe Banish Drug Dealers (AP, 08 Feb 2007)

Members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians who are convicted of drug dealing will be banished from the reservation under a law signed Thursday by its principal chief. Banishment is a harsh penalty previously reserved for extreme circumstances _ such as when a member is convicted of committing a sexual offense against minors. Federal law allows the tribe to sentence people to up to a year in prison and a \$5,000 fine. "But the tribe's most powerful _ and one of the remaining inherent powers we have _ is to say who can be here and who can't," said Michael McConnell, attorney general for the tribe.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtopnews.com/?nid=104&sid=1057555>

40. PR: Drugs, Automatic Weapon Seized (USCG, 13 Feb 2007)

SAN JUAN, P.R. - The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Tahoma working as part of the Caribbean Corridor Initiative, an organized crime drug enforcement strike force, seized nearly 800 pounds of cocaine, 55 pounds of brown heroin and one MAC-10 submachine gun with a silencer on board the Bolivian-flagged vessel Osiris II this weekend.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.military.com/features/0,15240,125081,00.html>

41. US Coast Guard on lookout for drug runners (USCG, 14 Feb 2007)

THE CARIBBEAN is a hot spot for drug trafficking but the United States Coast Guard is going all out to control narco-traffickers who ferry illegal drugs in regional waters. Ensign Deangelo, a deck watch officer with the United States Coast Guard Cutter Dallas, told the media last Saturday that historically, the Caribbean had been a major transshipment point. The traffickers, he added, were devising ingenious ways to conceal drugs but the Coast Guard was keeping track. "In general, the Caribbean on the whole is a hot spot for narcotics trafficking. There are other spots around the world (and) there are other oceans, but typically the Caribbean, historically, is a major route for narcotics running and that is where the Coast Guard is focused, along with other organisations, to try to stop this activity from occurring.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nationnews.com/story/304241969126304.php>

42. Cuba deports suspected drug baron (BBC, 09 Feb 2007)

The Cuban government has deported to Colombia a suspected narcotics baron wanted in the US on charges of drug trafficking and money laundering. Colombian officials escorted Luis Hernando Gomez Bustamante, 49, from Havana to Bogota on a government plane. Mr Gomez Bustamante, who is also known as "Rasguno", or "Scratch", is an alleged head of Colombia's biggest drug cartel, Norte del Valle. He was arrested in Cuba in July 2004 after entering on a false passport. Officials in both Cuba and Colombia confirmed that the deportation had been completed.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/6345111.stm>

43. Costa Rica: McInerney Has Biggest Seizure Of Deployment (USS McInerney Public Affairs Office, 14 Feb 2007)

USS McInerney (FFG 8) added to its string of successes on its Counter-Narco Terrorism (CNT) deployment by supporting the seizure of 2.3 metric tons of cocaine in mid-January from a fishing vessel off the coast of Costa Rica. Notably, this was the first joint seizure between Costa Rica and the United States.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.mayportmirror.com/stories/021507/may_mcinerney.shtml

CYBERTHREAT & THEFT

44. Bush's cybersecurity budget proposal concerns tech industry (By Heather Greenfield, National Journal's Technology Daily, 13 Feb 2007)

Industry groups fought to get a cyber-security czar at the Homeland Security Department, but they are disappointed that President Bush did not include more money for the expanded role as part of the fiscal 2008 budget he released Feb. 5. Bush proposed a \$92.7 million funding level for the department's cyber division, which is headed by Undersecretary Greg Garcia. "It's close to flat compared to what it was last year," said Liesyl Franz, vice president of information security for the Information Technology Association of America. "With its increased mission and increased expectations, that is insufficient."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36116&dcn=e_gvet

45. VA loses sensitive information on 1.3 million doctors (GovExec.com, 13 Feb 2007)

The hard drive that went missing from a Birmingham, Ala., Veterans Affairs Department facility last month contained highly sensitive information on nearly all U.S. physicians and medical data for about 535,000 VA patients, agency officials announced over the weekend. The data for the 1.3 million physicians who have billed Medicaid and Medicare, both living and deceased, could result in widespread fraud, such as the creation of fake Medicare and Medicaid invoices. There are 902,053 physicians in the United States, according to the American Medical Association.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36113&dcn=e_gvet

46. WiFi Turns Internet Into Hideout for Criminals (Washington Post, 11 Feb 2007)

With nearly 46,000 public access points across the country - many of them free - hundreds of thousands of computer users are logging on every day to wireless networks at cafes, hotels, airports and even while sitting on park benches. And although the majority of those people are simply checking their e-mail and surfing the Web, authorities said an increasing number of criminals are taking advantage of the anonymity offered by the wireless signals to commit a raft of serious crimes - from identity theft to the sexual solicitation of children.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

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

47. To Shred or Not to Shred (PCWorld, 07 Feb 2007)

Dumpster diving for your company records is a favorite investigative technique, and it's often legal. Here are some tips on best shredding practices.

When details of Hewlett-Packard's boardroom leaks investigation surfaced, many people were shocked-shocked!-to hear that HP may have hired investigators to go through individuals' trash. But Dumpster diving is a favorite technique, and it's often legal, which creates the need to shred wisely. Here are a few best practices you can share with colleagues.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.pcworld.com/article/id.128830/article.html>

TECHNOLOGY

48. New Life-Saving Software For U.S. Coast Guard (First Coast News, 13 Feb 2007)

JACKSONVILLE, FL - As sure as the water is calm, tides can turn and in seconds a life rescuing scenario is underway. "One more day we wouldn't be here I guarantee it," says survivor Duane Grove. Back in November, Grove and fishing buddy Bobby Christenson were rescued when their boat capsized 20 miles off the coast of Daytona. Thanks to new software at the U.S. Coast Guard Command Center, a mapped out search can be underway with just a few keystrokes. "It would help us asses how far that person would drift over a period of time so we could insure that our search area encompass that," says Command Center Chief Lt. Joe Gaskill. It's called S.R.O.P.S. which stands for Search & Rescue Optimal Planning System. It's able to show weather patterns as they happen and ultimately tells search crews where to look and how to get there around bad weather.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.firstcoastnews.com/news/local/news-article.aspx?storyid=75867>

49. UAV Tested For US Border Security (UPI, 12 Feb 2007)

Washington - The U.S. government is pushing ahead with developing Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, or UAVs, for land border security with Canada. Officials of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security said last week they would work with the Federal Aviation Administration to impose flight restrictions around a North Dakota air base where the new UAV will be tested.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://www.spacewar.com/reports/UAV Tested For US Border Security 999.html](http://www.spacewar.com/reports/UAV%20Tested%20For%20US%20Border%20Security%20999.html)

RESOURCES

50. "FY2008 Appropriations for State and Local Homeland Security," Congressional Research Service Report February 5, 2007

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/homsec/RS22596.pdf>

51. "Critical Infrastructures: Background, Policy and Implementation," Congressional Research Service Report updated January 8, 2007

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/homsec/RL30153.pdf>

52. "Earthquakes: Risk, Monitoring, Notification, and Research," Congressional Research Service Report February 2, 2007

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL33861.pdf>

OPPORTUNITIES

53. TSA seeks 1,300 more employees (GovExec.com, 13 Feb 2007)

The head of the Transportation Security Administration pitched staffing increases to lawmakers Tuesday, saying a larger staff was necessary to bolster airport security. Kip Hawley, the administrator of TSA, said at a hearing that an additional 1,300 employees and a \$60 million budget increase for fiscal 2008 would be necessary. The beefed-up security would help in checking identification documents against boarding passes and searching for fake IDs, he said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36124&dcn=todaysnews

54. FEMA on hiring binge to fill out staff (GovExec.com, 13 Feb 2007)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency will start a hiring spree this week, putting it on the brink of restoring staff levels to 90 percent of capacity. On Thursday, officials at FEMA's Washington, D.C., headquarters will hold a job fair aimed at finding as many as 50 new employees. The agency plans on hiring 41 just for its procurement division, said Marko Bourne, FEMA's director of policy and program analysis. There are about 333 positions listed as vacant at FEMA overall. Candidates have been selected to fill 107 of them. FEMA Deputy Director Harvey Johnson said once those 107 are finalized and the job fair is finished, FEMA will likely have crossed the 90 percent capacity staffing threshold "for the first time in years."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36112&dcn=e_gvet

FULL REPORTS

55. Aviation Security: Progress Made in Systematic Planning to Guide Key Investment Decisions, but More Work Remains (United States General Accounting Office (GAO), 13 Feb 2007)

DHS and TSA have undertaken numerous initiatives to strengthen the security of the nation's aviation system, and should be commended for these efforts. However, more work remains. Meeting the congressional mandates to screen airline passengers and checked baggage alone was a tremendous challenge. Since that time, TSA has turned its attention to, among other things, strengthening passenger prescreening; more efficiently allocating, deploying, and managing the TSO workforce; strengthening screening procedures; developing and deploying more effective and efficient screening technologies; and improving domestic air cargo security. (The full report is available in pdf format)

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.epicos.com/WARoot/News/AviationsecurityGAO.pdf>

56. Simple Planning Tools Can Help in Early Days of Pandemic - U.S. agency creates pandemic severity index resembling hurricane categories (By Cheryl Pellerin, USINFO Staff Writer, 12 Feb 2007)

Washington – In the early days of a pandemic, when a vaccine could be months away from public availability, communities can use a range of activities, called nonpharmaceutical interventions, to slow the spread of disease and save lives.

Such actions, announced February 1 by officials of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and its Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), are based on a new method to measure the severity of a pandemic and can include dismissing students from school and asking sick people to stay home from work and community gatherings.

“We have an opportunity to become the first generation in human history to prepare for a pandemic,” said Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Levitt. “Let’s continue toward that goal.”

In collaboration with other federal agencies and public health and private partners, CDC developed pandemic preparedness guidelines and a pandemic severity measurement tool for use by state and local decisionmakers, employers, schools, individuals and others.

The guidelines, *Interim Pre-pandemic Planning Guidance: Community Strategy for Pandemic Influenza Mitigation in the United States*, recommend “social distancing” actions that communities can take to limit the spread of disease.

In connection with this effort, the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration unveiled new workplace safety and health guidance February 6 that is intended to help employers prepare for an influenza pandemic.

The *Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for an Influenza Pandemic* provides principles for many kinds of workplaces and presents recommendations for employee protection for four levels of anticipated risk, including engineering controls, work practices, and use of personal protective equipment such as respirators and surgical masks and their relative value in protecting employees.

PANDEMIC SEVERITY INDEX

The measurement tool, the Pandemic Severity Index, is modeled after the approach used to characterize hurricanes. The index has five categories of pandemics – Category 1 represents moderate severity and Category 5 represents the most severe.

Pandemic severity is determined by the death rate – the percentage of infected people who die. A Category 1 pandemic would be as harmful as a severe seasonal influenza event; a pandemic as intense as the 1918 flu pandemic would be a Category 5.

Based on a pandemic's projected severity, government and health officials may recommend the following actions:

- Ask sick people to stay home or not go to work until they no longer are contagious (seven days to 10 days). Sick people can be treated with anti-viral medications if available and effective.
- Ask household members of sick people to stay at home for seven days.
- Dismiss students from school and close child-care programs for up to three months for the most severe pandemics, and reduce contact among kids and teens in the community.
- Recommend social distancing of adults in the community and at work, which may include closing large public gatherings, asking people to work at home if possible and shifting work schedules without disrupting essential services.

Such measures, according to CDC, will be most effective if they are planned and implemented early and uniformly across communities during a pandemic.

“All these things have social and economic impact and they're somewhat disruptive to the normal flow of society,” said Dr. Daniel Singer, senior medical policy adviser for the State Department Avian Influenza Action Group, on assignment from the Health and Human Services' Office of Global Health Affairs, in a February 9 *USINFO* interview, “so you don't want to do them haphazardly or too early. The Pandemic Severity Index helps you figure out the right application for those interventions.”

INTERNATIONAL PREPAREDNESS

Although the United States developed the guidelines and the Pandemic Severity Index for its own use in domestic planning, such nonpharmaceutical strategies could be useful in other countries.

“It’s not at all our intention that the rest of the world must adopt these things,” Singer said, “but we recognize they’re useful tools, well grounded in science, and we’re certainly willing to share them and, to the extent they’re interested, work with countries to adopt them.”

Singer said the United States is committed strongly to building sustainable capacity around the world, especially in developing countries, to prepare for a future pandemic.

As of December 2006, the United States had pledged \$434 million to support international efforts in pandemic preparedness and communication, surveillance and detection, and response and containment.

Of this amount, \$10 million is targeted for building vaccine production capacity in developing countries, and more than \$40 million is allocated for international technical and humanitarian assistance and international coordination.

“We’re trying to approach this in a systemic way,” Singer said, “looking at the underlying problems that prevent developing countries from being able to be prepared.”

The United States also supports preparedness efforts in 53 countries in collaboration with the World Health Organization, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Organization for Animal Health and other international partners.

“Recognizing that vaccines won’t be available, that there won’t be enough anti-virals or vaccines for anyone in a pandemic,” Singer added, “the community mitigation strategy is the one thing that countries are already empowered to do. They don’t need technology transfer, they don’t need additional funding, they don’t need special technical expertise – it’s something any country can pick up and plan for its implementation, no matter what their circumstances.”

The [full text](#) of the Community Strategy for Pandemic Mitigation is available on the U.S. government’s [pandemic flu Web site](#).

The [full text](#) of the *Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for an Influenza Pandemic* is available at the Department of Labor Web site.

For more information on U.S. and international efforts to combat avian influenza, see [Bird Flu \(Avian Influenza\)](#).

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

57. Human Trafficking a Human Rights Violation and Security Risk - U.S. programs help prevent trafficking overseas, provide victim services (By Michelle Austein, Washington File Staff Writer, 12 Feb 2007)

Washington – Human trafficking is both a human rights violation and an international security risk, a State Department official told a group of foreign journalists February 5.

Eleanor Kennelly Gaetan, senior coordinator for public outreach for the Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, spoke to the journalists during a February 5-7 tour organized by the department's Foreign Press Center.

During their three-day tour, the journalists met with U.S. and U.N. officials and representatives from nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) working to prevent human trafficking. (See [related article](#).)

Human trafficking is a "human rights travesty," Gaetan said, "it is most obviously a violation of individuals' human freedom."

In the *National Security Strategy* issued by the White House in March 2006, human trafficking was listed as an international security risk, Gaetan said. The security risk and the human rights violations and health risks that human trafficking causes, "represent a pandemic," Gaetan said. "Therefore, it is something that the U.S. government and many governments around the world have made a priority to eradicate."

Gaetan said that human trafficking fuels international crime. "Every time you have trafficking you have massive corruption, you have document fraud, you have corrupt cops, corrupt officials, custom agents looking the other way," Gaetan said. "It undermines the rule of law."

Approximately 600,000 to 800,000 people are coerced or forced into crossing international borders each year. Half of those are children, 80 percent are female and 66 percent are exploited sexually. About 14,500 to 17,500 end up in the United States, according to U.S. government estimates. (See [related article](#).)

U.S. EFFORTS TO FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

In anti-trafficking programs overseas, U.S. funds are used to train local law enforcement, judges and prosecutors who help prevent, prosecute and convict traffickers. Funding also provides victims with shelter, medical treatment, rehabilitation services and vocational training. American public awareness campaigns also have helped educate people and tourists about the realities and consequences of human trafficking.

U.S. assistance has helped launch a public-information campaign on television, billboards and airplanes in Brazil; implement a financial savings program for former victims of trafficking in Cambodia; provide at least 170 jobs to trafficking survivors in India; and run a training program for local health care personnel in Tanzania for better identification of victims.

In fiscal year 2005, the U.S. government obligated about \$95 million to support 266 anti-trafficking programs in 101 countries.

The work of the U.S. Agency for International Development, which has carried out anti-trafficking activities in more than 70 countries, has led to some local jurisdictions signing agreements with the United States under which they promise to help trafficked victims safely return to their home countries and receive occupational training. (See [related article](#).)

The [full text](#) of the 2006 National Security Strategy is available on the White House Web site.

For more information on U.S. policy, see [Human Trafficking](#).

(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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