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Publisher, Zhi Hamby-Nye

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CABLE Gram Volume 3 Issue 9

24 February 2006 *CABLE Gram*™

Good Morning All,

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Take care,

Zhi Hamby-Nye, Editor

Henry Ziegler, Associate Editor

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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.

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

FEDERAL

1. DoD Drafts New Disaster Response Plan (InsideDefense.com NewsStand, 23 Feb 2006)

The Defense Department is drafting new operational plans for military action in response to a massive domestic disaster. Adm. Timothy Keating, commander of U.S. Northern Command, is putting the finishing touches on Concept Plan 2501-05 and is expected to forward it for approval to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld next month, according to NORTHCOM spokesman Michael Kucharek. This new CONPLAN is designed to bring the Defense Department's playbook for providing relief in the wake of a domestic natural disaster -- most recently updated in 1997 -- in line with the Department of Homeland Security's National Response Plan, issued in January 2005. The National Response Plan is intended to better align the collage of federal special-purpose incident management and emergency response plans into a cohesive structure.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.military.com/features/0.15240.88584.00.html>

2. Press Briefing by Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism Frances Fragos Townsend (White House, 23 Feb 2006)

MS. TOWNSEND: The President's most solemn obligation is to protect the American people. Every day and night millions of men and women in the federal government, both

military and civilian, work to achieve that objective. Given the dangerous world we live in, they do an outstanding job. Despite all we do, however, Hurricane Katrina was a deadly reminder that we can, and will, do better. This is the first and foremost lesson we learned from the death and destruction caused by the country's most destructive natural disaster. No matter how prepared we think we are, we must work to improve our performance every day.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/02/20060223-5.html>

3. Experts Criticize U.S. Plan to Protect Nuclear Reactors (Global Security Newswire, 23 Feb 2006)

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has rejected recommendations to require guard forces at nuclear reactors to be capable of defending against terrorists armed with such weapons as rocket-propelled grenades and armor piercing ammunition, the Associated Press reported yesterday (see [GSN](#), Sept. 16, 2005). "Instead of sizing the [Design Basis Threat] on the actual threat, the NRC bases security standards on what the NRC, or perhaps the nuclear industry, believes a private guard force can be expected to handle," said Peter Stockton, a former Energy Department security adviser now with the Project on Government Oversight. Industry and congressional sources familiar with the commission's deliberations confirmed those decisions, according to AP. Preparation of the Design Basis Threat "takes into account not only what is the threat but what is reasonable for a private security force to protect against," said Michael Weber, deputy director of the commission's Nuclear Security and Incident Response Office. A declassified version of the plan indicates that guards must be prepared to defend against attacks from multiple directions including from water, though not from the air. It also assumes a potential suicide attack, AP reported.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2006_2_23.html#9DE04480

4. Lawmakers demand information on sale of U.S. port operations (GovExec.com, By Chris Strohm, 21 Feb 2006)

Lawmakers on Tuesday demanded more information on a deal that would allow a state-owned company in the United Arab Emirates to take control of six U.S. ports. UAE-based Dubai Ports World has proposed buying British firm Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co. If the deal goes through, DP World would take over terminal operations at the U.S. ports of New York, New Jersey, New Orleans, Miami, Philadelphia and Baltimore. The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee sent a letter to Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff and Treasury Secretary John Snow asking for a briefing on why the sale has been allowed to proceed. Committee Chairman Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, and ranking member Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., said the transaction "would seem to demand a more rigorous assessment, if not a full investigation."

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33431&dcn=e_hsw

5. Arab Co., White House Had Secret Agreement (AP, 22 Feb 2006)

The Bush administration secretly required a company in the United Arab Emirates to cooperate with future U.S. investigations before approving its takeover of operations at six American ports, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press. It chose not to impose other, routine restrictions. As part of the \$6.8 billion purchase, state-owned Dubai Ports World agreed to reveal records on demand about "foreign operational direction" of its business at U.S. ports, the documents said. Those records broadly include details about the design, maintenance or operation of ports and equipment. The administration did not require Dubai Ports to keep copies of business records on U.S. soil, where they would be subject to court orders. It also did not require the company to designate an American citizen to accommodate U.S. government requests. Outside legal experts said such obligations are routinely attached to U.S. approvals of foreign sales in other industries.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?C247122BC>

6. Security Programs, Unions Would Stay at Ports (Washington Post, 22 Feb 2006)

As a furor erupted yesterday over the prospective takeover by a United Arab Emirates company of terminal operations at six major U.S. ports, officials from the company and the Bush administration scrambled to assuage fears that the deal would undermine security and anti-terrorism efforts at some of America's biggest maritime facilities. Stewart A. Baker, assistant secretary for policy at the Department of Homeland Security, said at a news conference yesterday that Dubai Ports World, which won a takeover battle for a British firm that now operates terminals in the ports, promised during an internal administration review that it would continue participating in security programs previously entered into with the U.S. government.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?P3C6122BC>

7. Overhaul of emergency management system urged (GovExec.com, By Chris Strohm, 21 Feb 2006)

Several House lawmakers on Thursday called for a major overhaul of the nation's emergency management system, including removing the Federal Emergency Management Agency from the Homeland Security Department. "Today, confidence in FEMA and, by extension, the Department of Homeland Security, is at an all-time low," said Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., ranking member of the House Homeland Security Committee. With the next hurricane season fast approaching, some lawmakers believe Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff is taking a huge gamble in the way he has reorganized preparedness and response functions within the department.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33415&dcn=e_hsw

8. First responders detail emergency communications problems (By Michael Martinez, National Journal's Technology Daily, 21 Feb 2006)

House lawmakers and emergency responders last week agreed that more needs to be done to establish emergency communications systems that function across jurisdictions. A lack of equipment standards, inadequate funding and turf wars among federal, state and local

officials have made it increasingly difficult to achieve interoperable emergency communications, a panel of "first responders" said at a House Homeland Security Emergency Preparedness, Science and Technology Subcommittee hearing. Wisconsin State Patrol Chairman Casey Perry attributed a great deal of his problems to squabbles among states, counties and municipalities. He said more federal grant money needs to be conditional to hold state and local governments accountable for creating interoperable networks.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33406&dcn=e_hsw

9. Senator leaders could produce own border security bill (GovExec.com, By Emily Heil, CongressDaily, 23 Feb 2006)

Signaling that the immigration issue faces a tough fight, the Senate Judiciary Committee is planning to produce a wide-ranging bill, while Senate leaders are poised to write their own legislation. A senior GOP leadership aide said Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., is operating on "two tracks" on immigration, waiting to see what the Judiciary panel produces "while being ready to act in lieu thereof to meet member interest of action on this bill." Judiciary Chairman Arlen Specter, R-Pa., sounded confident that his panel would produce a bill that would wind up on the Senate floor. "The idea of having a leadership bill ... has been abandoned," he said last week. His panel will begin marking up immigration legislation March 2.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33444&dcn=e_gvet

10. Agriculture experts talk about border threats (AP, 23 Feb 2006)

Border states and neighboring countries must cooperate because threats to the food supply don't recognize boundaries, according to experts who are attending a conference here. The first Border Gov.'s Agriculture Tabletop conference, dedicated to outlining shared dangers to agriculture along the border, has attracted about 140 experts from 11 U.S. and Mexican border states. While some talks this week dealt with man-made dangers, most centered on natural pests.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.dentonrc.com/sharedcontent/APStories/stories/D8FUNFV82.html>

11. U.S. to require passports to Canada and Mexico in 2008 (Daily Kent Stater (Kent State U., 22 Feb 2006)

KENT, Ohio - It's a small book containing a photograph, a signature, some basic personal information and blank pages for stamps. It's a passport -- the key to most international travel. Beginning Jan. 1, 2008, the United States will begin requiring all people entering the country to have a passport. Currently, U.S. citizens do not need a passport to cross the land border between Canada or Mexico. Residents of Canada also enjoy freedom to enter the United States without a passport as long as they provide positive identification, said Linda Copley, Kent State University Clerk of Council. However, that changed with the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004. That act put a plan in place to eventually require passports or equivalent secure government documents to enter American territory. The State Department and Department of Homeland Security are

planning on offering a lower-cost alternative for U.S. citizens reentering the country in the form of a secure passcard. The passcard, which will be implemented later this year, will not be valid for other international travel.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.dailycolonial.com/go.dc?p=3&s=2246>

12. U.S. Federal Agents Seize Rare Fossils Smuggled from Argentina (Dept. of State, 23 Feb 2006)

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents have seized nearly 8 tons of rare fossils that have significant scientific value and were believed to have been smuggled out of Argentina, according to a February 23 ICE press release. The items were seized at the Tucson (Arizona) Gem and Mineral Show earlier in February after ICE received information that a vendor was offering fossils illegally smuggled out of Argentina. Included in the seizures, ICE said, were three dinosaur eggs valued at more than \$4,000 each. Fossils are protected by the Argentine government, and removing them without government permission is against the law. "These prehistoric treasures rightfully belong to Argentina and the Argentinean people," said Roberto Medina, special agent-in-charge for ICE investigations in Arizona. "It is shameful that someone would plunder specimens like these from another nation simply to pleasure hobbyists and line their own pockets." ICE said no arrests had been made yet and the investigation was continuing.

13. Democrats Move to Expand Potential Liability of Makers of Bioterrorism Vaccines, Countermeasures (Global Security Newswire, 22 Feb 2006)

U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.) could block efforts by Senate Democrats to pass legislation that would expand the liability of companies that produce bioterrorism countermeasures and vaccines, the *Biodefense Funding Report* reported yesterday (see [GSN](#), Feb. 15). Senators Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.) and Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) last week introduced a bill to repeal liability protections included in the fiscal 2006 defense spending bill. The Responsible Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act would create a compensation pool for people injured by a vaccine or drug used against an act of bioterrorism or a natural outbreak, as well as allow that person to sue the manufacturer.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2006_2_22.html#8B1E7E23

14. Congress to look at agencies' efforts to fight avian flu (By Danielle Belopotosky, National Journal's Technology Daily, 23 Feb 2006)

As avian influenza spreads, Congress is beginning to prepare for the reauthorization next year of a bioterrorism measure aimed at addressing key public health initiatives. A 2002 law that aims to coordinate national monitoring, response and reporting in the case of bioterrorism or health emergencies is up for reauthorization in 2007. But since its enactment, the Homeland Security Department has been charged with the surveillance and detection of bioterrorism attacks. And in 2004, the Health and Human Services Department launched its health information technology initiative, which includes the monitoring of and response to public health emergencies. "We are trying to look at all of those [efforts underway] to determine how they are or are not integrated," Jennifer

Bryning said Wednesday during a Capitol Hill briefing, where experts also demonstrated tools for health emergencies. Bryning works on the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Bioterrorism Subcommittee.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33445&dcn=e_gvet

15. Scientist's Visa Rejected over CW Concerns (Global Security Newswire, 23 Feb 2006)

Indian scientist Goverdhan Mehta said a U.S. consulate in India refused him a visa because his knowledge of chemistry was considered a threat, the *Washington Post* reported today (see *GSN*, Feb. 21). Mehta was asked to submit more information regarding his request to visit the United States to lecture at the University of Florida in Gainesville. Mehta's written account of the matter, obtained by the *Post*, said he was accused of "hiding things" and that his work was dangerous because of possible chemical weapon applications. The scientist maintains that his work has nothing to do with chemical weapons. He said he would provide his passport if he received a visa, but would not do anything more.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2006_2_23.html#0F45385E

16. Former U.S. Official Warns Against Rushing to Complete U.S.-Indian Nuclear Sharing Agreement (Global Security Newswire, 23 Feb 2006)

Former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Nonproliferation Robert Einhorn called for careful consideration of a plan to separate Indian civilian and military nuclear sites, a move necessary for the U.S.-Indian nuclear technology sharing agreement to move forward, the *Washington Post* reported today (see *GSN*, Feb. 22). "If the Bush administration wants to demonstrate clearly that civil nuclear cooperation is not contributing to an increased Indian nuclear weapons capability, then it will have to be very demanding on the separation issue," Einhorn said. "If it cuts unwarranted compromises, it will further erode the administration's credibility on nonproliferation issues in general" and hurt the U.S. ability to address the nuclear programs of Iran and North Korea. India to date has offered three separation plans, none of which met U.S. expectations. In December, Indian negotiators suggested to U.S. chief negotiator and Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns that it wanted military control over fast-breeder reactors, which are capable of producing large amounts of weapon-grade plutonium, until 2010. The facilities are not yet online.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2006_2_23.html#56D419CC

17. Man Indicted Again in Terror Probe - Defendant Was Acquitted in 'Virginia Jihad Network' Trial (Washington Post, 22 Feb 2006)

Sabri Benkahla was acquitted in March 2004 of being a member of a "Virginia jihad network." Now Benkahla has been indicted again, this time on charges that he lied when he told a grand jury that he had never attended a terrorist training camp. Benkahla was arraigned yesterday in U.S. District Court in Alexandria on perjury and obstruction of justice counts. The Falls Church man pleaded not guilty. John Keats, an attorney for

Benkahla, called the new charges "a sour grapes indictment. The reason they are coming back is because they lost the earlier case. It's absolutely sour grapes." Federal prosecutors in Alexandria declined to comment.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?Z538522BC>

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS

18. AL: Legislature toughens identity theft law (AP, 23 Feb 2006)

The Alabama Legislature has voted to toughen Alabama's identity theft law and make all cases felonies. The Alabama Senate gave final approval Thursday to changes the House made to an identity theft bill pushed by Attorney General Troy King and sponsored by Sen. Phil Poole, D-Moundville, and Rep. Mike Hill, R-Columbiana. The bill now goes to Gov. Bob Riley. The governor's communications director, Jeff Emerson, said the administration would review the bill immediately. King said the legislation was needed because a rapid growth in technology has made it easier for thieves to steal people's identities and wreck their finances. "Everyone is a target, and anyone can become a victim," he said.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?P249532BC>

19. AZ: Gun Smuggling Ring (CBS 5 News, 22 Feb 2006)

The ATF has broken-up a gun smuggling ring that appears to have sent weapons from Phoenix to Mexico. The suspects bought the weapons at the Arizona State Fairgrounds during gun shows in December and January. These events look like weapons "bazaars," with everything from pistols to rifles available for purchase, in some cases without even a background check required. This federal court complaint contains details about the case. The suspects admitted to purchasing AK-47's. A smuggler would then take the guns south across the border to Sinaloa, Mexico and sell them there. That area is familiar to DEA Special Agent Ramona Sanchez.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.kpho.com/Global/story.asp?S=4539511&nav=DIH7>

20. CA: Second Identity Theft Summit Arms Californians with Education, Training (Community Dispatch, 23 Feb 2006)

The Schwarzenegger Administration's second annual summit aimed at combating the nation's fastest-growing crime got under way this morning at the Los Angeles Convention Center. *Teaming Up Against Identity Theft: A Summit on Solutions* brings more than 1,000 people together and focuses on education and training in privacy protection and identity theft prevention. Nearly 10 million people in the United States are victims of identity theft each year -- more than one million of them are Californians. In 2005, this crime cost businesses and financial institutions more than \$57 million nationwide. "The effects of identity theft can be devastating and take years to recover from. The cost of identity theft impacts individuals, businesses and the economy -- fighting it will take a team effort," said Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. "I am pleased

to see the variety of stakeholders coming together to provide leadership and make progress in the fight against identity theft."

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://communitydispatch.com/artman/publish/article_3927.shtml

21. CA: Toxic rail cars on their way out of South City (The Examiner, 22 Feb 2006)

SO. SAN FRANCISCO — Union Pacific has agreed to significantly reduce the number of rail cars filled with hazardous materials it keeps at a city rail yard, officials said. Union Pacific will remove roughly half the rail cars being stored at the South City train station, and cease temporarily staging railcars at the yard whose final destination is outside San Mateo County, according to Rep. Tom Lantos, D-San Mateo, who brokered the agreement Wednesday at a meeting between the city and Union Pacific. "This is a satisfactory first step," Lantos said. "Cutting back on the cars being stored at the yard certainly reduces the threat of a hazardous spill."

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.sfexaminer.com/articles/2006/02/23/peninsula/20060223_pe05_toxic.txt

22. KS: County will name threat assessment team (The Marysville Advocate, 22 Feb 2006)

Marshall County will soon have a threat assessment team in place with representatives of county fire chiefs, ambulance services, the hospital, city police chiefs, county law enforcement, 911 coordinator, public health, emergency management and public works.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.mvleadvocate.com/web/isite.dll?1140540918296>

23. KS: Rolla crash could be case of smuggling (KWCH 12 Eyewitness News, 22 Feb 2006)

The Highway Patrol released a list of people who were in this pickup truck when it lost a tire and crashed Tuesday. There was one woman among the 19 people riding in the cab and bed of the truck. There was also a 3 year old boy and two teenagers, one 15 the other 17. Everyone was thrown out in the crash. Three of them were killed. One person is still in critical condition. Some of those people have been released from the hospital and they're now behind bars. Eyewitness News has confirmed all 19 illegal immigrants were on their way to Missouri when the crash happened.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?N248122BC>

24. MS: Hood urges Senate to take up insurance, ID theft bills (AP, 21 Feb 2006)

JACKSON, Miss. - Attorney General Jim Hood urged the state Senate on Tuesday to pass two hurricane-related bills and an identify theft proposal he says are imperative to protecting Mississippi consumers. All three bills passed the House with wide voting margins but Hood said during a news conference at the state Capitol that Senate committee chairmen have failed to act. One of the insurance bills would mandate that insurance companies offer a storm surge waiver so property owners know whether or not they have flood coverage. "We've had hundreds of people coming up here saying they didn't know they didn't have flood coverage," Hood said.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.sunherald.com/mld/sunherald/news/state/13927085.htm>

25. NY: Stolen NYC Water Supply Map Raises Concerns (Global Security Newswire, 23 Feb 2006)

Experts on the environment and unconventional weapons have warned that terrorists could attack New York City's water supply using a stolen map of the city's water system, the *New York Sun* reported today (see [GSN](#), Jan. 27). Someone last week apparently broke into a vehicle belonging to an Environmental Protection Department maintenance supervisor and removed an agency laptop computer containing a New York City water distribution map, police said. Depending on the level of detail on the map, "there could be the opportunity to pose a threat," said Cindy Stachowski, executive director for the Center for Environmental Information. Terrorists looking to hit a certain neighborhood could remove manhole covers and tamper with the pipes that bring water into homes, added one chemical and biological weapons expert.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2006_2_23.html#984E0769

26. TN: Fire department housing \$800,000 hazardous materials response vehicle (Oakridger, 23 Feb 2006)

Anderson County Mayor Rex Lynch announced Monday that the Anderson County Office of Emergency Management has placed the new Region 2 Hazardous Material Response Vehicle in Oak Ridge and is getting a response team trained for action. Emergency Management Director Steve Payne said Tuesday that the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency sets response levels based on the type of emergency. He said this new vehicle is capable of responding to the highest level of hazardous material release. Payne said the Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Explosive response truck, or CBRNE, can also be used to respond to many other catastrophes, and will not be used exclusively for the explosive emergencies listed in its name. For example, the truck could respond to a tractor-trailer crash when a chemical is involved or other hazardous material leaks from the truck.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.oakridger.com/stories/022306/new_20060223031.shtml

27. VA: Dulles gets a handle on security (Times Community, 22 Feb 2006)

The U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Government Reform held a hearing on in-line baggage screening systems at Dulles International Airport last week, with U.S. Reps. Tom Davis (R-11th), Jim Moran (D-8th) and Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.) asking officials how such systems can increase safety for passengers flying from Dulles and Reagan National Airport. Committee members first toured the airport observing that, because of the large size of stand-alone explosives detection system (EDS) machines, they can create congestion in airport terminals by taking up precious space.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?N197322BC>

GANG ACTIVITY

28. CA: Police seeking to update gang injunctions (North County Times, 23 Feb 2006)

NORTH COUNTY - Officials want to update injunctions against two gangs each in Escondido and Oceanside to include new members and shifting boundaries ---- a move a county prosecutor said Wednesday might signal an effort to bring injunctions current countywide. The four gangs are already under court orders restricting the activities of their members. "I do think you have to update them (the injunctions), because the gang changes," said Deputy District Attorney Terri Perez, who has handled injunctions for the district attorney's office for at least the last five years. "I know there are other agencies experiencing an interest right now (in updating)."

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2006/02/23/news/inland/14_06_432_22_06.txt

29. CA: Oakland gang member held after cops find 28 guns (The Oakland tribune, 22 Feb 2006)

OAKLAND - Police seized an alarming number of guns Tuesday afternoon from a Border Brothers gang member on probation for a previous weapons charge and with strict orders to stay away from guns. Juan Montano, 32, a native of El Salvador with arrests dating to 1994, many of them weapons related, was arrested just after 2 p.m. outside his house at 2345 Bartlett Ave., in the Fruitvale district, police said. The arrest team found at least 28 guns, two hand grenades, an ounce of crystal methamphetamine with a street value of about \$1,500 and dozens of boxes of ammunition between Montano's two trucks and the house he shares with his mother, police said.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.insidebayarea.com/oaklandtribune/news/ci_3534701

30. MD: More Fugitives In County, Police Say (Washington Post, 23 Feb 2006)

The arrest of a violent gang leader in Elkridge last week highlights the increasing number of fugitives from Baltimore and the District who are hiding in Howard County, law enforcement officials said. Ricky K. Wilkins, 32, a leader of the Bloods gang in Baltimore County, was arrested Feb. 13 at the Executive Motel, in the 6200 block of Washington Boulevard, where he had been living for several weeks, police said. Wilkins was charged with first-degree murder in connection with the decapitation of a Baltimore man. "We are starting to head down [to Howard County] a lot," said Kenneth Plumley, a supervisory deputy with the U.S. Marshals Service in Baltimore. "Up in Elkridge you have the guys running from Baltimore City, and then down in Laurel they're running from D.C."

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?P558152BC>

31. PA: Gang activity alleged in Willingboro killing - The Burlco prosecutor said the slain man had hoped to join the Bloods. Six people are charged (Philadelphia Inquirer, 22 Feb 2006)

The Bloods street gang was behind the fatal shooting of a Willingboro man and the attempted murder of his brother and another man last Wednesday, the Burlington County prosecutor said yesterday. "This clearly is a gang-related shooting involving the Bloods, and these individuals are affiliated with that street gang," Robert D. Bernardi said outside court after bail hearings for three of the six defendants. He offered no motive for the shootings, other than to say that Lavonne Adkins, 18, "was considering entry into the gang when he was killed."

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/news/local/13930456.htm>

32. VA: Alleged Crime Ring Busted for Gambling (The Connection Newspapers, 23 Feb 2006)

In coordinated raids across Northern Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina, police officers arrested an alleged organized crime ring Wednesday as part of a two-year investigation into illegal gambling on football and basketball. More than 100 officers and detectives over the three states served more than two-dozen search warrants and arrested eight men, including suspects from Arlington, Springfield, Annandale, Stafford, Nokesville and Kill Devil Hills, N.C. "This is the largest organized crime and gambling case in Fairfax County's history," said Captain David Vice, commander of the county police department's Organized Crime and Narcotics Division. Vice estimated that hundreds - probably thousands - of Northern Virginia gamblers placed bets with the alleged criminal operation, wagering on collegiate and professional sports games. "They were well established when we started the investigation so it's safe to assume this had been going on for some time," Vice said.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=62325&paper=61&cat=109>

33. Gang Uses Deportation to Its Advantage to Flourish in U.S. - Mara Salvatrucha is rooted locally, but it has become a force in Central America and the Washington area. U.S. policy provided unintended aid (By Robert J. Lopez, Rich Connell and Chris Kraul, Los Angeles Times Staff Writers, 23 Feb 2006)

San Salvador - On a sweltering afternoon, an unmarked white jetliner taxis to a remote terminal at the international airport here and disgorges dozens of criminal deportees from the United States. Marshals release the handcuffed prisoners, who shuffle into a processing room. Of the 70 passengers, at least four are members of Mara Salvatrucha, or MS-13, a gang formed two decades ago near MacArthur Park west of the Los Angeles skyline. For one of them, Melvin "Joker" Cruz-Mendoza, the trip is nothing new. This is his fourth deportation -- the second this year.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?F568232BC>

34. British police suspect organized crime behind huge cash robbery; 2 arrested (AP, 23 Feb 2006)

TONBRIDGE, England - One of Britain's biggest and most audacious robberies was executed with military-style precision: One gang abducted the cash depot manager's family while another tied up guards and made off with the equivalent of up to \$100

million Cdn. Police said they arrested a 29-year-old man and a 31-year-old woman Thursday in the robbery, which bore striking similarities to a 2004 heist in Northern Ireland and to the new movie Firewall.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?M378212BC>

35. UK: Two arrested in hunt for armed gang who robbed security depot (The Independent, 23 Feb 2006)

Police have arrested two people over the record £50m robbery of a security depot on Wednesday but officers believe some or all of the armed gang may have escaped to the Continent. A £2m reward is being offered for the recovery of the banknotes and capture of the raiders, who were described as a team of "top-level" criminals. Detectives are also investigating the possibility that the IRA gang behind the £26m robbery at the Northern Bank in Belfast in 2004 were responsible for the raid on the Securitas depot in Tonbridge, Kent.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://news.independent.co.uk/uk/crime/article347382.ece>

36. French 'anti-Jew gang chief' held (BBC, 23 Feb 2006)

The suspected head of an anti-Semitic gang which kidnapped, tortured and killed a young French Jew near Paris has been arrested in Ivory Coast. Youssouf Fofana, 26, is in the custody of French police who went to Ivory Coast to question him. The French authorities had issued an international warrant for his arrest after he had left the country. Victim Ilan Halimi died after being found naked, bound and gagged in a crime that shocked France. The 23-year-old man had been held for ransom for three weeks.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/4742094.stm>

37. Yemeni gang of 17 face prosecution (Bahrain News Agency, 22 Feb 2006)

Sana'a - The Yemeni Lower Criminal Court, began today prosecuting 17 people accused of forming an armed gang to conduct criminal acts against Americans in Yemen. The Public Prosecution had accused the criminals of cooperation in crime acts by forming the gang from 2004 to 2005, to target Americans and their Yemeni friends. It also accused them of threatening public safety and security by using weapons, explosives and electronic triggering devices.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://english.bna.bh/?ID=41547>

NARCO TRAFFICKING

38. Half of the persons being sought by law enforcement agencies in Washington DC for drug related offences are Jamaicans (Radio Jamaica, 22 Feb 2006)

That's the word from the US Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) which has posted the names of seven Jamaicans on its most wanted web site. The Jamaicans are wanted for offences including intent to distribute marijuana, money laundering and engaging in a criminal enterprise. Listed among the wanted fugitives is 58-year-old Pauline Richards.

The DEA says Richards conspired to distribute more than 1,000 kilograms of marijuana in Virginia. She has been on the run for more than four years. The other Jamaicans wanted by the DEA in Washington are: Donovan Clayton; Winston Mills; Keith Parram; Ronald Barclay; Winston Mason and Ronald Williams.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.radiojamaica.com/news/story.php?category=2&story=23200>

39. FL: \$18,000-Worth Of Cocaine Found In Home With Children (WFTV, 23 Feb 2006)

PALM COAST, Fla. - Flagler County deputies raided a home Thursday where children were living and found thousands of dollars worth of cocaine. Deputies raided the home at Nine Lyons Place in the Matanzas Woods section of Palm Coast. The cocaine has a reported street value of \$18,000. Detectives also recovered about \$25,000 in cash.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wftv.com/news/7374964/detail.html>

40. GA: Big cocaine supplier shut down (Atlanta Journal Constitution, 23 Feb 2006)

DeKalb and federal authorities say a raid at a home near Stone Mountain shut down the main cocaine supplier for the Scottdale area. Police Capt. Dale Holmes said last week that 50 kilograms of powder cocaine, two assault rifles, \$130,000 in cash and four luxury vehicles were found at a "stash house" on Norse Court on Feb. 4. He said the house off Rays Road north of Memorial Drive had been rented by a Snellville couple, James Dennis Edwards, 36, and Shatausa Edwards, 32. They were arrested on drug charges.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/dekalb/stories/0223cocaine.html>

41. IN: Raid leads to arrests (the Herald Journal, 23 Feb 2006)

Three White County men were arrested Tuesday in connection with a police raid of a methamphetamine lab at a residence in Monon. Shortly after midnight on Tuesday, Monon Police noticed an odor of ether and anhydrous ammonia in the 200 block area of North Market St. Police traced the smell to a residence and an outbuilding at 202 N. Market St. "You could smell from the car with the windows up just by driving by — that's how strong it was at one point," said Indiana State Trooper Jerry Holeman, who along with Sgt. Doug Lee and Monon Town Marshal Roger Young were among the first to respond to scene.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?P559512BC>

42. ME: Brewer Man Sentenced For Smuggling Pain Pills (WLBZ2.com, 22 Feb 2006)

A man from Brewer has been sentenced to 21 months in prison for bringing prescription pain pills to Maine from Canada. Joshua Delmonaco pleaded guilty to the charge. Investigators say they got an anonymous tip in March of last year that Delmonaco was smuggling oxycontin into the U.S. through Calais. It turns out he'd concealed nearly 60 pills in a body cavity.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wlbz2.com/newscenter/article.asp?id=31937>

43. TX: TV anchor quits amid drug probe (UPI, 22 Feb 2006)

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX, United States - A Corpus Christi, Texas, television news anchor who quit after two years is part of a drug dealing investigation relating to a news story he was working on. Kevin Steele, a 20-year broadcast news veteran and former KZTV evening news anchor, said he isn't the one being investigated surrounding a Feb. 9 cocaine buy. The Corpus Christi Caller-Times reported Steele made the cocaine purchase in Aransas County as part of a story into drug dealing. He immediately turned the drugs over to Corpus Christi police who then contacted the county sheriff's department.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?T169252BC>

44. UK troops setting up Afghan base (BBC, 22 Feb 2006)

Several hundred Royal Engineers are building the camp in Lashkar Gar, the capital of southern Helmand province, with protection from 150 Royal Marines. Around 850 troops are due in place this month, preparing for a deployment of more than 5,000 within six months. They aim to restore peace and tackle the drugs trade in an area of major Taleban activity and opium production.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/4739394.stm

CYBERTHREAT & THEFT

45. A Federal Court Rules That A Financial Institution Has No Duty To Encrypt A Customer Database (FindLaw Commentary, 20 Feb 2006, Contributed by Rick Forno)

In a legal decision that could have broad implications for financial institutions, a court has ruled recently that a student loan company was not negligent and did not have a duty under the Gramm-Leach-Bliley statute to encrypt a customer database on a laptop computer that fell into the wrong hands. Intrigued? Read on. Stacey Lawton Guinn filed a federal lawsuit in Minnesota, claiming that Brazos Higher Education Service Corporation, Inc. negligently permitted an employee to maintain unencrypted, private customer data on a laptop computer that ultimately was stolen from the employee's home. The factual background leading up to the lawsuit goes like this. Brazos, a company that originates and services student loans, has had about 365 employees, including John Wright, a financial analyst for the company. While Brazos is based in Texas, Wright has worked from his home office in Maryland.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://writ.news.findlaw.com/commentary/20060220_sinrod.html

46. California Tightens Anti-Piracy Laws (Internet News, 23 Feb 2006)

California tightened its anti-piracy screws Wednesday when it enacted a new law lowering the felony threshold to 100 counterfeit CDs. Previously, the threshold for a felony copyright violation was 1,000 copies. Under a new measure signed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, the felony threshold is now the same for illegal CDs as it is for

movies. "This law ensures that thieves threatening the livelihoods of those in the music industry will face much greater risk of being prosecuted and appropriately punished," Mitch Bainwol, chairman and CEO of the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), said in a statement praising the new law.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.internetnews.com/bus-news/article.php/3587051>

COUNTERFEIT

47. South Korean Officials Examine Counterfeit U.S. Currency Allegedly Printed by North Korea (Global Security Newswire, 23 Feb 2006)

Some South Korean lawmakers who have examined specimens of counterfeit U.S. currency provided by Washington said the \$100 "supernotes" are printed in North Korea and circulated through a state-run trading firm, Reuters reported today (see [GSN](#), Feb. 22). A nondescript building in Pyongyang prints the notes, as well as other "special documents" such as portraits of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, said Kim Jae-won, a member of parliament from the opposition Grand National Party. "The information comes from a recent defector from the North who was a high-ranking official," said the lawmaker. An expert at the Korea Exchange Bank has deemed the notes of superior counterfeit quality, according to his aide. South Korean Prime Minister Lee Hae-chan, however, maintained that North Korea was not conclusively implicated in the scheme.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2006_2_23.html#7B940028

TECHNOLOGY

48. New FBI Computer System Exceeds Costs (AP, 22 Feb 2006)

The FBI's latest attempt to modernize its computers is running behind schedule and its budget already has exceeded the cost of the last failed effort. FBI Director Robert Mueller and other officials have refused to disclose the anticipated cost of the Sentinel program, which won't be fully in place until 2009. But the FBI has set aside \$97 million for it this year and is asking for an additional \$100 million in the government spending year that begins Oct. 1.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?W2E6562BC>

49. U.K. Installs Radiation Detectors at Entry Points (Global Security Newswire, 22 Feb 2006)

The United Kingdom has begun installing systems that can detect nuclear weapons or radiological "dirty bombs" at airports, rail stations and ports, the London *Independent* reported today (see [GSN](#), Feb. 9). Scotland Yard also plans to test individuals on the streets of London for traces of radiation, according to the *Independent*. The increased surveillance stems from a fear that al-Qaeda might be planning a WMD attack on the country. According to a new report, the Home Office and the Metropolitan Police have installed detection systems at Waterloo station and at London's airports. Equipment is

being placed at other major entry points. A vehicle with a radioactive material detector and a "walkthrough" scanner is also being tested.

ZGram Suggested URL:

http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2006_2_22.html#A88BEBA9

RESOURCES

50. The Federal Response to Hurricane Katrina: Lessons Learned – Now Available on the Web

The "lessons learned" review of 125 recommendations, to be released Thursday, does not call for any resignations, despite recent demands -- mostly by Democrats -- for Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff to step down. It also recommends keeping the beleaguered Federal Emergency Management Agency under Chertoff's control, according to a Bush administration official.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/reports/katrina-lessons-learned/index.html>

Or if you prefer a PDF copy is available at

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/reports/katrina-lessons-learned.pdf>

51. Financial Times Will Publish Special Report on Crisis Management (PRNewswire, 22 Feb 2006)

NEW YORK - The Financial Times will publish a worldwide special report on May 31, 2006 titled, "Crisis Management," which will be distributed as a separate supplement in all four editions of the newspaper. This essential and timely report will address the lessons learned from the handling -- or mishandling -- of some of the world's most recent and fatal natural disasters; of tragic, global epidemics and those that have the ability to become such; and of the largest, most corrupt corporate scandals this country has ever seen. In 2005, we witnessed tragedy, crisis, and deception up close. With the Asian Tsunami, Hurricane Katrina and too many corporate scandals, crisis management has become a much-valued skill and a dominant topic worldwide. Now, as the world fears a potential Avian Flu pandemic, businesses are already feeling the impact. One multinational organization is trying to operate with only half its staff while other organizations are developing contingency plans. This report will address how the business community can best anticipate and prepare for such crisis.

ZGram Suggested URL:

<http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/060222/nyw155.html?.v=40>

EVENTS

52. U.S. Officials To Attend Anti-Money Laundering Conference: March 15-17 event in Florida to focus on laws, regulations to combat laundering (By Eric Green, Washington File Staff Writer, 23 Feb 2006)

Washington - A number of U.S. officials will participate in an international conference on combating money laundering, to be held March 15-17 in Hollywood, Florida.

Presented by a Miami-based company called Money Laundering Alert, the conference will focus on a growing body of laws and regulations that governments around the world are enacting to combat the crime of money laundering. Money laundering is described as the processing of criminal proceeds to disguise their illegal origin. The illegal practice is said to be having a corrosive effect on economies worldwide, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Organizers expect 1,300 attendees from the banking regulatory and enforcement field from 60 countries.

The event follows a previous Florida conference on money laundering that was held February 9-10 in Miami, where U.S. officials also participated. (See [related article](#).)

Organizers of the conference say "no field of regulation, law enforcement or international affairs generates the controversies, changes and costs that the money-laundering field does." The issue, say the organizers, "gets more challenging and complex each year for all the businesses that are covered under the growing body of laws and regulations that governments around the world enact and issue with regularity."

Among the announced U.S. officials participating in the conference are Lisa Arquette, associate director of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's anti-laundering and financial crimes branch; Richard Weber, chief of the asset-forfeiture and money-laundering section at the Department of Justice; Jeffrey Breinholt, the Department of Justice's counterterrorism section deputy chief; Jamel El-Hindi, the Treasury Department's associate director of program policy and implementation in the Office of Foreign Assets Control; and Ann Jaedicke, deputy controller for compliance in the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.

Panel discussions will include "How to Build a Suspicious-Activity Reporting Program Regulators Will Applaud." This panel will explore how "weak suspicious-activity reporting programs are an element in almost all cases of regulatory sanctions against financial institutions."

Another session will discuss "How to Follow the Money in Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing."

A session related to the Americas is entitled: "Latin America and the Caribbean -- Hot-Button Issues in Money-Laundering Controls." This session will discuss how almost every country in the region has implemented an anti-money laundering system, including suspicious-transaction reporting and recordkeeping requirements, while also examining questions that remain about how the requirements are being implemented and enforced.

Moderating that session is Susan Galli, senior anti-money laundering coordinator for the Citigroup financial service company's global anti-money laundering team. Galli served on the U.S. Treasury Department's Bank Secrecy Act Advisory Group. The U.S.

government uses the Bank Secrecy Act to fight drug trafficking, money laundering and other crimes.

[More information](#) on the conference is available on its Web site.

See also U.S. State Department electronic journals [The Fight Against Money Laundering](#) and [The Global War Against Terrorist Financing](#).

For additional information on U.S. policy, see [Money Laundering](#).

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

FULL REPORTS

53. International Banks To Collaborate on Corruption Problem - Inter-American Development Bank announces task force to fight fraud, corruption (By Eric Green, Washington File Staff Writer, 23 Feb 2006)

Washington - The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has announced it will work with other international banks located in Africa, Asia, and Europe to address the global problem of fraud and corruption.

In a February 21 statement, the IDB said the international financial institutions had established a task force that will develop what is called a "Framework for Preventing and Combating Fraud and Corruption." The task force was formed by the international banks at a February 18 meeting in Washington.

Besides the IDB, the other institutions involved in the task force are the African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Investment Bank, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The task force plans to identify opportunities for collaboration among the institutions on helping countries strengthen their own capacity to fight corruption and on improving cooperation with other groups, including civil society group, to enhance transparency and accountability.

The banks will seek to complete a joint accord in time for the September 2006 annual meeting of the World Bank and the IMF boards of governors. The accord would increase information sharing, standardize definitions of corruption, improve the consistency of investigative rules and procedures and ensure mutual support for compliance and enforcement of actions taken by any one of the international banks to combat fraud and corruption.

The IDB said corruption is "one of the most significant obstacles" to the success of a nation's development. With this in mind, the IDB is planning its first anti-corruption

conference for the Americas, at a date and venue still to be decided. Regional public financial institutions and civil society will be invited to help prepare the conference, said the IDB.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) says nothing does more to alienate citizens from their political leaders and institutions and to undermine stability and economic development than endemic corruption.

Adolfo Franco, USAID's assistant administrator for Latin America and the Caribbean, says consolidation of democracy cannot be achieved without attacking corruption, which he describes as one of the most fundamental problems that undermines a democratic system. (See [related article](#).)

According to the U.S. State Department's publication, *Transparency in Government -- How American Citizens Influence Public Policy*, democratic governance depends upon the ability of ordinary citizens to hold government officials accountable for their actions. The [full text](#) of the publication is available on the State Department Web site.

For more information on U.S. policy, see [The Americas](#).

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

54. Justice Department Indicts Three Men on Terrorism Charges (By David Anthony Denny, Washington File Staff Writer, 21 Feb 2006)

Washington -- Two American citizens and a legal U.S. resident, all living in Ohio, have been indicted by a federal grand jury on terrorism charges, the Justice Department says.

According to a Justice Department statement released February 21, Mohammad Zaki Amawi, Marwan Othman El-Hindi, U.S. citizens, and Wassim Mazloum, a legal permanent resident, are charged with "conspiracy to commit terrorist acts against Americans overseas" and with "providing material support to terrorists."

Amawi, who holds dual citizenship in Jordan, also is charged separately with distributing information regarding explosives and two counts of making verbal threats against President Bush, according to the statement.

The three men are currently in custody, according to the Justice Department statement, and were scheduled to appear in federal courts in Cleveland and Toledo, Ohio, the afternoon of February 21.

The indictment states that the defendants attempted to further their common goal of waging violent "holy war" against U.S. and coalition soldiers in Iraq and in other countries.

The activities for which they were arrested include carrying out jihad training, receiving and providing instructions to how to make and use explosives and construct suicide bomb vests, conspiring to raise money to finance training and violent jihad activities and attempting to acquire and deliver explosives and computers to others engaged in violent jihad in the Middle East.

The most serious charges, conspiracy to kill, could result in life in prison. The maximum sentence for conspiracy to provide material support to terrorists is 15 years imprisonment. The maximum sentence for distributing information regarding explosives is 20 years in prison and the charges of making verbal threats against the president of the United States carry a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment each.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

In a prepared statement, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales said, "We cannot wait until an attack happens. We will continue to use our criminal laws as Congress intended, to charge individuals once they conspire to provide support to terrorism or conspire to kill abroad."

The defendants, Gonzales said, have been engaging in weapons training, sympathizing with terrorists and seeking to provide help to kill people abroad, including U.S. troops -- all while living in the United States.

He further said that Amawi especially was focused on improvised explosive devices, a principal cause of U.S. casualties in Iraq.

"Individuals who aid terrorists from within our borders threaten the safety of all Americans," Gonzales said. This case, he said, points out the "need for continued vigilance in the war on terrorism."

The [Justice Department statement](#) and Gonzales' [prepared statement](#) are available on the department Web site.

For additional information on U.S. policy, see [Response to Terrorism](#).

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

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services around the world may interpret news differently than do press services in the United States. It is equally important to remember that the readers of foreign press services believe those news stories as readily as we believe stories from US sources. As defense and security professionals, you know the value of understanding the beliefs of people we are trying to either protect or protect our citizens from – it's vital. We do not endorse any particular publications or coverage, but we certainly feel you need to know what's being written.