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6 March 2007 CABLE Gram™

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73. "Data Mining and Homeland Security: An Overview," Congressional Research Service Report updated January 18, 2007
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Take care,

Zhi Hamby-Nye, Editor

Henry Ziegler, Associate Editor

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FEDERAL

1. New group to coordinate homeland security intelligence (FCW, 28 Feb 2007)

Starting tomorrow, state, local and tribal law enforcement officials will receive federal intelligence through a new coordinating group established to focus the information in a way that meets those officials' needs and to unify federal policy on threats to public order. Lora Becker, incoming director of the interagency federal state and local threat reporting and assessments coordination group, said the group would not generate alerts, warnings or updates on homeland security threats. Its analysts will provide strategic assessments of threats and disseminate them through established routes, such as the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Forces and the dozens of technology-rich state information fusion centers.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fcw.com/article97794-02-28-07-Web>

2. DHS releases draft regulations for Real ID (FCW, 1 Mar 2007)

The Homeland Security Department today released draft regulations to implement the Real ID Act, almost two years after the law passed, and a day after Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii) and others introduced a bill to repeal the act. The Real ID initiative would establish federal standards for driver's licenses and identification cards for citizens. States would be required to bear the cost of creating and distributing the licenses, and of maintaining identity databases.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fcw.com/article97804-03-01-07-Web>

3. States Get Extra Time On Launch of 'Real ID' (Washington Post, 01 Mar 2007)

The Bush administration will allow states to postpone the planned May 2008 launch of a program to toughen security requirements for driver's licenses by up to 19 months, in response to complaints about the projected \$11 billion cost and potential disruptions, congressional and Department of Homeland Security officials said yesterday. The retreat came as the White House and the Democratic Congress headed for a showdown over a broad counterterrorism bill to implement many of the remaining recommendations of the Sept. 11 commission, which called for ways to make it more difficult to obtain fraudulent identification. President Bush threatened to veto the overall bill if the Senate joined the House in extending union protection to 45,000 federal airport screeners.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/229jmz>

4. Americans selling personal identity to illegal aliens (AP, 04 Mar 2007)

Asked by a federal judge why she sold her birth certificate, Rosie Medellin said she needed a few bucks and didn't really think it through. Bobby Joe Flores said he sold his identification documents to buy drugs. Margarita Moya and her son did it to raise money for medicine for a loved one. Their documents were destined for illegal aliens. In all, seven defendants pleaded guilty in Corpus Christi last week to charges of selling their birth certificates and Social Security cards for \$100 each.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20070303-113948-7337r.htm>

5. New Profiling Program Raises Privacy Concerns (Washington Post, 28 Feb 2007)

The Department of Homeland Security is testing a data-mining program that would attempt to spot terrorists by combing vast amounts of information about average Americans, such as flight and hotel reservations. Similar to a Pentagon program killed by Congress in 2003 over concerns about civil liberties, the new program could take effect as soon as next year. But researchers testing the system are likely to already have violated privacy laws by reviewing real information, instead of fake data, according to a source familiar with a congressional investigation into the \$42.5 million program. Bearing the unwieldy name Analysis, Dissemination, Visualization, Insight and Semantic Enhancement (ADVISE), the program is on the cutting edge of analytical technology that applies mathematical algorithms to uncover hidden relationships in data. The idea is to troll a vast sea of information, including audio and visual, and extract suspicious people, places and other elements based on their links and behavioral patterns.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2r9zjt>

6. DHS lacks timetable for monitoring visitor departures (GovExec.com, 2 Mar 2007)

There is no estimate yet for when a Homeland Security Department program to track visitors to the United States will be able to verify departures, one of the program's managers said Thursday. Robert Mocny, acting deputy director for US VISIT, said officials are slowly and deliberately tailoring the program to meet DHS' needs, but the exit tracking component is "not ready for prime time yet." The program was established three years ago but so far only keeps tabs on entries. Mocny spoke about the effort in an address at the Border Trade Alliance regional conference in Washington. Trade officials expressed concerns Thursday that implementing an inefficient version of US VISIT to verify departures could cause delays at airports, further hindering the travel industry.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36261&dcn=e_gvet

7. Activists gear up for immigration reform debate (North County Times, Ca., 6 Mar 2007)

NORTH COUNTY - Tina Jillings and Claudia Spencer are two local Latino women who could easily represent opposite sides of the nation's immigration reform debate. Jillings said she will soon travel to Washington, D.C., as part of a group lobbying Congress for wide-reaching reform that she hopes includes legalization for the country's estimated 12 million illegal immigrants. Spencer, on the other hand, was recently featured in a newspaper ad arguing against illegal immigration. "Illegal aliens and their supporters would have you believe that all American Hispanics want open borders, unrestricted immigration and amnesty for law-breakers," the ad, which features a large picture of Spencer's face, reads. "That is just not true." The women are Vista residents trying to influence a debate that began last week in the nation's capital over what to do to overhaul the country's broken immigration system.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2007/03/06/news/top_stories/3407194916.txt

8. US House passes foreign takeover bill (Sidney Morning Herald, 1 Mar 2007)

The US House of Representatives on Wednesday unanimously passed a business-backed bill that would tighten rules for federal review of foreign takeovers of US companies without discouraging such investments. The House passed the legislation to reform the way reviews are conducted by the Committee on Foreign Investments in the United States (CFIUS), an inter-agency panel. The bill has yet to be taken up by the Senate this year. Business groups opposed the Senate version of the bill approved last year because it would require CFIUS to notify members of Congress of pending takeovers before making a recommendation on them.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/35pty9>

9. SEC Files Charges in Wall Street Insider Trading Scheme (Washington Post, 1 Mar 2007)

Federal prosecutors today unsealed criminal charges against more than a dozen people -- including former executives at three of Wall Street's elite investment banks and traders at prominent hedge funds -- for engaging in thousands of improper trades in a pair of wide-ranging schemes. A grand jury in Manhattan indicted 10 of the participants on conspiracy, fraud and bribery charges. Four others agreed to plead guilty, to help investigators crack open the interconnected plots and to provide testimony against their onetime associates, government officials said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2xmk17>

10. House Bill OKs Review of Port Ownership (AP, 28 Feb 2007)

WASHINGTON - The House agreed Wednesday to give the government broader powers to review foreign investments in U.S. power plants, ports and other facilities that could be vulnerable to terror attacks. The legislation, passed 423-0, would give legal muscle to a once-obscure federal office that gained attention a year ago with the uproar over plans by a Dubai-owned company to manage six of the nation's largest ports. The deal fell through after lawmakers from both parties said the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, or CFIUS, ignored serious national security concerns in signing off on the transaction. The legislation, which now moves to the Senate, expands the definition of transactions that require CFIUS review to include those involving homeland security and critical infrastructures, and takes steps to ensure that high-level officials will be involved in decisions by the multi-agency group.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/worldlatest/story/0,-6447382.00.html>

11. 12 million containers: Can we scan them all? (DC Velocity, March 2007 Issue)

Late last year, the outgoing Congress adopted—and the president signed—a bill aimed at improving security at the nation's ports. Called the Security and Accountability For Every Port Act (SAFE Port Act) of 2006, the bill calls for the installation of radiation detection equipment at major ports and establishes several other programs designed to tighten

control over container freight destined for the United States. But the bill did not go far enough for some members. And the newly empowered Democrats, flexing their muscle when the new Congress convened in January, pushed a bill through the House that included even tougher freight security language in the first 100 hours of the session.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.dcvelocity.com/news/?article_id=729

12. Citing Mumbai train blasts, US lawmaker seeks transport security (India News, 6 Mar 2007)

Citing terrorist attacks on trains in Madrid, London and Mumbai, a Democratic US lawmaker has introduced a bill to improve the security of rail and road public transportation systems in his country. 'Tragically, transit and rail systems have long been popular targets of terrorist attacks worldwide,' said James L. Oberstar introducing the 'Rail And Public Transportation Security Act Of 2007' in the House of Representatives. From 1991 to 2001, 42 percent of all terrorist incidents were carried out on rail systems or buses. Recent tragic events show that these threats continue, he said, recalling the terror attacks in three cities -- March 11, 2004 (Madrid), July 7, 2005 (London) and July 11, 2006 (Mumbai) -- that left more than 450 dead.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.indiaenews.com/america/20070306/42125.htm>

13. Majority of National Guard Units Rated 'Not Ready' (Washington Post, 1 Mar 2007)

Nearly 90 percent of Army National Guard units in the United States are rated "not ready" -- largely because of shortfalls in equipment worth billions of dollars -- jeopardizing the Guard's ability to respond to crises at home and abroad, according to a congressional commission that released a preliminary report today on the state of U.S. military reserve forces. The commission found that heavy deployments of the National Guard and Reserves since 2001 for the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and other anti-terrorism missions have deepened shortages, forced the military to cobble together units and hurt recruiting. The problems threaten to undermine the nation's 830,000-strong selected reserves, the commission said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/38536f>

14. The customs declaration up close (CNN, 5 Mar 2007)

Since March 2003, the collection of duties -- the taxes or "customs" levied against imported goods -- has fallen to the newly minted Customs and Border Protection (CBP), a Department of Homeland Security agency that encompasses four previously independent offices and enforces the border-sensitive laws and regulations of more than 40 other government divisions, from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to the Department of Agriculture.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cnn.com/2007/TRAVEL/ADVISOR/03/05/customs.declaration/index.html>

15. Top Secret: We're Wiretapping You (WIRED, 5 Mar 2007)

It could be a scene from Kafka or Brazil. Imagine a government agency, in a bureaucratic foul-up, accidentally gives you a copy of a document marked "top secret." And it contains a log of some of your private phone calls. You read it and ponder it and wonder what it all means. Then, two months later, the FBI shows up at your door, demands the document back and orders you to forget you ever saw it. By all accounts, that's what happened to Washington D.C. attorney Wendell Belew in August 2004. And it happened at a time when no one outside a small group of high-ranking officials and workaday spooks knew the National Security Agency was listening in on Americans' phone calls without warrants. Belew didn't know what to make of the episode. But now, thanks to that government gaffe, he and a colleague have the distinction of being the only Americans who can prove they were specifically eavesdropped upon by the NSA's surveillance program.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wired.com/news/technology/1,72811-0.html>

16. HP denies spying on former employee (CNET News.com, 01 Mar 2007)

In a court filing on Tuesday, Hewlett-Packard denied allegations that it pretexted a former employee with whom it is engaged in a legal dispute. In 2005, HP sued Karl Kamb, a former vice president of business development and strategy, alleging he stole company trade secrets. In January, Kamb countersued HP alleging that his phone records were improperly obtained and also charging that he was instructed by HP management to spy on rival Dell. "HP denies that the so-called pretexting alleged by Kamb in the counterclaim occurred," the company said in a filing made Tuesday with a federal court in Tyler, Texas. "HP denies that any so-called pretexting activities were part of a widespread pattern or practice at HP." While HP denies pretexting Kamb, the company has said that as part of a separate - and now infamous leak probe - it obtained or tried to obtain the phone records of more than a dozen people including current and former directors, employees and journalists, including three reporters from ZDNet UK sister site CNET News.com.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://news.zdnet.co.uk/itmanagement/0,1000000308,39286130,00.htm>

17. China's spies 'very aggressive' threat to U.S. (Washington Times, Bill Gertz, 6 Mar 2007)

China's intelligence services are among the most aggressive at spying on the United States, followed by Cuban, Russian and Iranian spy agencies, according to the U.S. government's top counterintelligence coordinator. "These services are eating our lunch," Joel F. Brenner, the new head of the Office of the National Counterintelligence Executive, said in his first interview since being named to the counterspy post in August. Mr. Brenner, a former inspector general at the National Security Agency, told The Washington Times that the U.S. remains the No. 1 target of "virtually every significant espionage service on the face of the Earth." China's intelligence activities have been "very aggressive" at acquiring U.S. advanced technology, often before it is fully developed here. "The technology bleed to China, among others, is a very serious problem," he said, noting that the FBI is improving its efforts to identify and protect sensitive technology.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://washingtontimes.com/national/20070306-122226-3827r.htm>

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS

18. CA: Wired Iraqi man triggers scare at L.A. airport (Reuters, 6 Mar 2007)

LOS ANGELES - An Iraqi national wearing wires and concealing a magnet inside his rectum triggered a security scare at Los Angeles International Airport on Tuesday but officials said he posed no apparent threat. The man, identified by law enforcement officials as Fadhel al-Maliki, 35, set off an alarm during passenger screening at the airport early on Tuesday morning. A police bomb squad was called to examine what was deemed a suspicious item found during a body cavity search of the man. Local media reports said a magnet was found in his rectum.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/yowh77>

19. CA: TSA Workers Surprised Screened (CBS13, 28 Feb 2007)

SACRAMENTO INT'L AIRPORT Members of the public have to go through an extensive screening process. So did airline employees. But airport worker didn't really have to; until now. Screeners are showing up where airport workers least expect it. "You know, it was like a shock," said airport worker Muhmud Haroon. A shock to find once they punch in their code and get to the secure areas, they often have to go through one more check, something they're not used to. Everyday security shows up at a random access point and makes sure workers aren't carrying something they shouldn't. No one is immune; even the airport's federal security director has to go through it.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://cbs13.com/topstories/local_story_060002838.html

20. CO: Columbine Evacuated After Bomb Threat (AP, 1 Mar 2007)

LITTLETON, Colo. - Columbine High School, the site of the nation's deadliest school shooting eight years ago, was evacuated Thursday after a bomb threat was called in, authorities said. Jefferson County Sheriff's spokeswoman Jacki Kelley said students were taken to a nearby park while bomb squads and dogs searched the school. School officials called off classes for the rest of the day. Kelley said she believed more than one threat was called in Thursday beginning at 9:30 a.m. She did not know whether the caller made reference to the April 20, 1999, attack by students Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris, who shot and killed 13 people before taking their own lives. "Most of the threats that have been associated to that school made reference to past events that occurred there," Kelley said. "But a bomb threat to a school is as serious at any school as it is at Columbine."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.breitbart.com/news/2007/03/01/D8NJIR3G0.html>

21. DC: Madame to Sell 10,000 Phone Records of High-End Washington Clients (The Politico, 1 Mar 2007)

Deborah J. Palfrey is unhappy. And, if you know who Deborah J. Palfrey is—and especially if you know her by Jeane—you probably don't want her unhappy. From 1993

until this past summer, Palfrey ran Pamela Martin and Associates, a “high-end adult fantasy firm which offered legal sexual and erotic services across the spectrum of adult sexual behavior,” according to a statement she put out today hoping to raise funds for her legal defense. The way she plans to raise those funds could reverberate through Washington’s power corridors. She is considering “selling the entire 46 pounds of detailed and itemized phone records for the 13 year period,” reports The Politico's Ryan Grim. In October, the Internal Revenue Service seized her assets; the sale of the records would fund her fight against the seizure. Palfrey released what she said were a sample of the records, which don’t include names, but do feature a number of Washington area exchanges.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/27af7>

22. FL: Man smuggled guns, marijuana on flight from Orlando to Puerto Rico - The man packed 13 handguns, a M-16-type automatic weapon and eight pounds of marijuana in a suitcase (Orlanda Sentinel, 6 Mar 2007)

A passenger packed 13 handguns, an automatic weapon similar to an M-16 and eight pounds of marijuana in a suitcase and somehow was able to board a Delta flight at Orlando International Airport on Monday bound for Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico police arrested Thomas Anthony Muñoz, 22, as he was picking up his luggage at the Luis Muñoz Marin International Airport in San Juan. The incident raises many questions: Did Muñoz's luggage go through a scanning machine before it was loaded on Delta Flight 933? Did he have help from inside? Was he for some reason allowed to go through? And had Muñoz succeeded smuggling weapons this way in the past? Puerto Rico police superintendent Pedro Toledo thinks he had.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/orl-airport-bk,0,1911565.story?coll=orl-home-headlines>

23. IL: TSA Reacts To Airport Security Gaps Investigation (CBS, 5 Mar 2007)

CHICAGO Imagine being allowed to repeatedly bypass airport security – no metal detectors or bag checks. That's what CBS 2 Investigators exposed in their ongoing series "Fly At Your Own Risk." Transportation Security Administration officials are talking to CBS 2 Investigator Dave Savini. The TSA's federal security director at O'Hare International Airport is reacting to 2 Investigators' series of reports exposing missing employee identification badges and the access they can get you. "What was shown on television was a concern," said Kathleen Petrowsky. "We will definitely look at opportunities to improve security." Petrowsky says an investigation is underway following our exclusive undercover probe that exposed 3,760 missing airport employee badges, called SIDA badges.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://cbs2chicago.com/investigations/local_story_064221335.html

24. IL: O'Hare employees now subject to random screening (ABC Local, 27 Feb 2007)

There are new security procedures in effect at O'Hare Airport. Employees are now given random security checks. For a long time, airport workers just had to present their

employee security badges to pass through security. What's happening at O'Hare is the product of ADASP. That's a government acronym for Aviation Direct Access Screening program. In plain English, what's happening is that employees with airport security clearance are now themselves being subjected to security checks. O'Hare is among roughly 100 of the nation's airports where airport employees, contractors, and vendors -- most of whom have access to the secure side of the airport -- are now subject to random screening.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=local&id=5075112>

25. MA: Company Hired Illegal Immigrants to Keep Up With Military Contracts, Feds Say (AP, 6 Mar 2007)

BOSTON - The owner and three managers of a New Bedford leather manufacturer that's won more than \$91 million in U.S. military contracts were arrested Tuesday for allegedly hiring illegal immigrants. The company, Michael Bianco Inc., hired illegal aliens as it tried to meet deadlines to supply backpacks and other products to the military, federal officials said in a court filing. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers raided the company Tuesday morning.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/070306/ma_immigration_arrests.html?.v=1

26. MO: Unabomber-Like Figure Baffles Feds (AP, 1 Mar 2007)

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - He calls himself "The Bishop." Exactly why is just one of the many mysteries surrounding the increasingly menacing figure. The man _ and investigators believe they are dealing with a man _ is suspected of sending at least a half-dozen threatening letters to financial institutions over the past 18 months and mailing two dud pipe bombs that arrived a day apart in Kansas City and Chicago in January. In his letters, The Bishop has demanded that financial companies move the prices of certain stocks to certain levels, often \$6.66 _ an apparent reference to the Antichrist, said corporate counterterrorism expert Fred Burton. Burton, whose security firm has been hired by financial companies to find The Bishop, said the pipe bombs were assembled with crucial components deliberately left out, in what was probably a warning. Next time, Burton said, the bombs could be real.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.breitbart.com/news/2007/03/01/D8NJ18LO7.html>

27. OH: Ohio Sex Predators May Get Green Car Tag (AP, 1 Mar 2007)

COLUMBUS, Ohio - Ohio already tags repeat drunken drivers' cars with bright yellow license plates. Now it wants to make convicted sexual predators use fluorescent green ones. A bill introduced Wednesday would require all habitual and child-oriented convicted sex offenders to display the easy-to-spot plates. No other state has tried the tactic, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures, though some require a designation to appear on sex offenders' driver's licenses. Ohio briefly considered requiring pink plates for sex offenders but changed the color because it was associated with breast cancer survivors. Democratic Gov. Ted Strickland, who took office in January, would sign the latest bill if it passed, press secretary Keith Dailey said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.breitbart.com/news/2007/03/01/D8NJJAIO0.html>

28. OK: State Selects Spacenet Transportable And Emergency Response Communications Service (SPX, 7 Mar 2007)

McLean VA - Spacenet has been selected by Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences Telemedicine Center to provide satellite network services for its new mobile telemedicine clinic. The OSU Center for Health Sciences, its College of Osteopathic Medicine and affiliated teaching hospital support one of the largest statewide telemedicine programs in the nation. The OSU Telemedicine Center is using Spacenet's satellite network services with Cisco technology to support its mobile medical facility. Spacenet's advanced Connexstar satellite services with auto-acquisition antenna technology provide the ability to rapidly deploy communications solutions virtually anywhere in the United States and serve as an ideal solution for emergency response.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2898q3>

29. PA: Hazleton puts a price tag on illegal immigration (The Morning Call, 6 Mar 2007)

An influx of immigrants -- some of them illegal -- fueled an economic boom in Hazleton, but also triggered startling increases in crime and costly demands for law enforcement and education, attorneys for the city say in new court documents. One-third of all drug arrests in Hazleton in 2005 involved illegal immigrants, the documents say, and each time an illegal immigrant uses a hospital emergency room it costs taxpayers \$2,000. The "proposed findings of fact" were submitted Monday, a week before the start of a federal nonjury trial to determine the legality of Hazleton's ordinance curbing illegal immigrants.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.mcall.com/news/local/all-citymar06.0.7091633.story>

KEY PEOPLE

30. Secretary Paulson Names James H. Freis, Jr. as the New Director of FinCEN (Media-NewsWire.com, 6 Mar 2007)

U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson, Jr. today named James H. Freis, Jr. as the new Director of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), a bureau of the U.S. Treasury Department. Freis currently serves as Deputy Assistant General Counsel for Enforcement & Intelligence. "Jim brings leadership, financial expertise and international experience that will serve our nation well as Director of FinCEN. I am pleased that he will take over and lead FinCEN's critical efforts to safeguard the financial sector from illicit activity. Over the past two years at Treasury, Jim has contributed greatly to Treasury's efforts to protect the country against terrorist financiers, money launderers, and other criminals who abuse the financial system," said Paulson. As Deputy Assistant General Counsel, Freis provides legal support to Treasury's Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, including supervising the legal counsel to FinCEN, the Office of Foreign Assets Control, and the Treasury Executive Office for Asset Forfeiture. He is also responsible for developing international financial measures against rogue states.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://media-newswire.com/release_1044974.html

31. Sen. Chuck Graham Named to Committee Monitoring Terrorism (Moberly Monitor, 5 Mar 2007)

JEFFERSON CITY - Sen. Chuck Graham (D-Columbia) has been appointed as a member of the Joint Committee on Terrorism, Bioterrorism and Homeland Security. "The threat of terrorism is obviously a big concern of all people, not just legislators," Sen. Graham said. "This committee will reviews ideas and plans to improve the security of Missouri citizens and how best to respond to all types of terrorist threats." The committee was formed under the guidelines of legislation (Senate Bill 712) approved in 2002. The legislation requires the committee to meet on at least a quarterly basis. The committee must also submit to the General Assembly an annual report that contains recommendations for legislation and possible changes in state administrative procedures.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.moberlymonitor.com/articles/2007/03/05/news/news3.txt>

32. Obama, Clinton urge Wal-Mart to back ports security measure (WMC-TV, 2 Mar 2007)

Democratic presidential rivals Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama joined seven other U-S senators today in urging Wal-Mart to drop opposition to a port security bill. The bill would require scanning of all U-S-bound cargo containers for possible terrorist nuclear bombs. Nine senators, 21 members of the House of Representatives and a group of relatives of nine-eleven victims signed letters to Wal-Mart Chief Executive Lee Scott as part of a campaign by WakeUpWalMart-dot-com, a union-funded group critical of the retailer.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wmcstations.com/Global/story.asp?S=6169131>

GANG ACTIVITY

33. FL: Mobster, 96, Pleads Guilty In Organized Crime Case (All Headline News, 28 Feb 2007)

Fort Lauderdale, FL - Albert Facchiano pleaded guilty Wednesday to racketeering conspiracy and other offenses prosecutors say he committed for the Genovese crime family, but its unlikely that the mobster will serve a day behind bars. At 96, Facchiano, known in crime circles as "The Old Man," is in frail health and will likely be sentenced to house arrest, the Associated Press reports. Faces charges robbery, money laundering and bank fraud, the aged gangster pleaded guilty to a Florida charge of racketeering conspiracy and a New York charge of witness tampering. Although Facchiano could have faced a maximum sentence of 30-years in prison and up to \$500,000 in fines, under a plea agreement, prosecutors recommended that he be placed under house arrest, the AP reported. He's scheduled to be sentenced May 25.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.allheadlinenews.com/articles/7006600920>

34. MD: Youth Gang Reflects Shift In Origins, Membership (Washington Post, 03 Mar 2007)

Residents along Bel Pre Road just west of Georgia Avenue in Montgomery County were complaining to police last week about youths throwing ice chunks at cars and stealing fire extinguishers. By last Saturday, police say, the group had graduated to greater violence: Three people were stabbed, two critically. Now, 11 members of the gang, including a 12-year-old, face multiple charges, including attempted first-degree murder in a double stabbing at the Wheaton Metro Station and another knifing at an Aspen Hill apartment complex on Bel Pre Road in which a 31-year-old mentally challenged man was wounded. Officer Robert Musser, Montgomery's top gang investigator, said yesterday that the group's membership reflects a growing trend in area gangs: They are mixed-race, loosely organized collections of youths that coalesce because they attend the same school or live in the same neighborhood. The groups often change their monikers several times, he said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/35ux8q>

35. MD: Prosecutors Seek Additional Ammunition in War on Gangs (Capital News Service, 6 Mar 2007)

ANNAPOLIS - The House Judiciary Committee heard testimony from prosecutors, legislators, police officers and citizens Tuesday, on why a conspiracy statute often reserved for the Mafia is a necessary weapon in the legal battle against the growing problem of gangs throughout the state. "The gangs we are talking about aren't the Jets and the Sharks from West Side Story," said Delegate B. Daniel Riley, D-Harford. "A lot of people think we don't have gangs in Western Maryland or on the Eastern Shore, but we do," said Queen Anne's County State's Attorney Frank M. Kratovil Jr. The Maryland Gang Prosecution Act of 2007 is inspired by the federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, better known as the RICO statutes. More than 30 states already use RICO laws, said Maryland Attorney General Doug Gansler.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://somd.com/news/headlines/2007/5519.shtml>

36. NY: Former mobster writes tell-all about the Israeli mafia in NY (Jerusalem Post, 3 Mar 2007)

A former mobster has written a tell-all book, for the first time ever exposing the inner workings of an Israeli gang that took over the New York drug trade for a brief period in the eighties. Ron Gonen, who has spent the past 18 years in the US Witness Protection Program, has teamed up with author Dave Copeland to offer an insider's glance into a parallel universe of crime, murder and deceit. Gonen, who spoke with *The Jerusalem Post* from an undisclosed location, says he was kicked out of the program earlier this month because he violated the terms of his agreement by co-authoring the book. Undeterred, the Russian-born former drug dealer and burglar said that he is writing a second work - his memoirs - in Hebrew. He hopes that this book will lead to a movie deal.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

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

37. OH: Aggressive New Approach To Combat Organized Theft Rings In Ohio (Patriot, 2 Mar 2007)

March 1, 2007 -- Ohio Attorney General Marc Dann's Ohio Organized Crime Investigation Commission (OOCIC) and local law enforcement took aggressive action today to protect Ohio consumers and confront an organized retail theft crisis. A task force, comprised of officers and agents representing several local and state agencies, was commissioned September 29, 2005 to fight this pervasive problem. The crime involves thieves or "boosters" stealing items from retailers, then bringing those stolen goods to a "fence" market, where stolen merchandise is received and resold at or above market price. Customers are often unaware they are purchasing stolen merchandise. Common items stolen include baby formula, diabetic test strips, tobacco products, tools, and alcohol.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.allamericanpatriots.com/m-news+article+storyid-20380.html>

38. SC: Anti-gang law - Senator sees it taking a bite out of crime, but local officials wish law were stronger (Times and Democrat, 2 Mar 2007)

In talking with police recently, an Orangeburg teen told officers there is nothing else to do but join a gang. "We need to find something for these 14-, 15- and 16-year-old children, and that's what they are -- children," Orangeburg Department of Public Safety Chief Wendell Davis said. "I told him you're going to be dead or in jail in three to four years." Help may be on the way in the form of South Carolina's first anti-gang law, which gives the state a tool to fight the growing problem. But the new legislation, which is aimed at creating anti-gang laws, is being met with mixed reviews by local authorities.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

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

39. Canada: Stock scam linked to organized crime (Toronto Star, 28 Feb 2007)

Friends know him as the soft-spoken owner of a popular garden centre north of Toronto, a family man who financially supports minor hockey teams. But in court documents obtained by the *Toronto Star*, the RCMP alleges Aneillo (Neil) Peluso is a key member of the Cosimo Commisso organized crime family and a major player in a multi-million-dollar Bay Street "pump-and-dump" stock fraud.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.thestar.com/Business/article/186401>

40. Fleeing gangs set up new bases in rural Haiti (Reuters, 28 Feb 2007)

PORT-AU-PRINCE - Heavily armed gangs, fleeing Haiti's dangerous slums in the face of U.N. peacekeeper raids, have established new bases in provincial areas, creating panic in rural populations, officials and residents say. A gang leader known as Belony, who was recently chased from the capital's Cite Soleil slum by U.N. peacekeepers, now leads about 100 gunmen near the northern town of Saint-Michel, according to Patrick Joseph, a lawmaker representing the area.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/homepageCrisis/idUSN28445283.CH.2400>

41. Israel: Increased wire-tapping needed for fight on crime, Mazuz says (ynetnews.com, 28 Feb 2007)

Israel must increase its use of wire-tapping in order to effectively fight crime, Attorney General Menachem Mazuz said Wednesday. "Without wire-tapping there is no fight on organized crime and no real fight against corruption in government," he told the Knesset's Constitution, Law and Justice Committee. The committee is investigating the issue in the aftermath of the Haim Ramon affair, during which the Tel Aviv District Prosecution admitted to monitoring the conversations of the complainant, her commanding officer and the head of Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's Bureau. According to data obtained by the committee, in the past year more than 1,200 phone lines were tapped in Israel. During its investigation the committee is expected to summon Knesset members who were tapped, including Strategic Affairs Minister Avigdor Lieberman.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3370842,00.html>

NARCO TRAFFICKING

42. CA: Border agents reporting spike in cocaine seizures - Marijuana, meth levels appear to be holding steady (The Desert Sun, 1 Mar 2007)

COACHELLA VALLEY - The drug best known for fueling the "boogie nights" of the 1970s and 1980s is back. Seizures of cocaine at area border check points are on the rise. U.S. Border Patrol agents confiscated 524 pounds of the drug from Oct. 1, 2006, through January 2007, which is 35 percent more than what was grabbed during the entire previous fiscal year. A possible explanation: an increased number of agents dispatched to the border since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, who are catching more of the contraband. Experts also say foreign drug cartels could be pushing cocaine through the Coachella Valley, which is known as a staging ground for trafficking throughout the United States.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.thedesertsun.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070301/NEWS08/703010317>

43. FL: Cocaine ringleader in Duval receives 20-year prison term (The Times-Union, 28 Feb 2007)

The leader of a cocaine ring that brought 22 pounds of cocaine a week into Duval County was sentenced Tuesday to 20 years in prison, capping a prolific life of crime police testified dated back to 1993. Glenn Schofield, 32, had faced up to life in prison. He was sentenced as a career criminal after a jury convicted him last month of trafficking more than 14 ounces of cocaine and conspiracy to traffic cocaine.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.jacksonville.com/tu-online/stories/022807/met_8263631.shtml

44. IN: Illinois man charged in 8-pound cocaine bust (NWI Times, 28 Feb 2007)

A routine traffic stop for speeding and failure to use a turn signal on Interstate 65 near DeMotte has led to federal charges against an Illinois man for possessing more than 8 pounds of cocaine. Juan Carlos Toranzo, of Lyons, Ill., had three plastic-wrapped bricks

of cocaine behind an armrest in his 1996 Audi when he was pulled over for speeding by Lake County Deputy Cmdr. Oscar Martinez on Friday, court records say.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

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

45. ME: Cocaine network takes hit (Portland press herald, 1 Mar 2007)

Three people from Kittery and one from Eliot have been charged with conspiracy to distribute cocaine. Police say they were part of a drug ring that brought more than \$1 million worth of cocaine into southern Maine and coastal New Hampshire over five years. The arrests were part of an 18-month investigation that included the arrest last May of two men from Lawrence, Mass., who police say were key figures in the scheme. Officers from Kittery, York, Portsmouth, N.H., and the federal Drug Enforcement Administration arrested the three local men and one woman Jan. 17, but police only released the information Wednesday because of an ongoing undercover investigation.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://pressherald.maintoday.com/news/local/070301drugs.html>

46. NJ: 5 Camco men indicted in plan to distribute cocaine (Courier-Post, 28 Feb 2007)

CAMDEN - Five Camden County men, who were among more than a dozen people arrested in drug-trafficking raids in January, were indicted Tuesday by a federal grand jury. The five are charged with conspiracy to distribute multiple kilograms of cocaine and quantities of crack cocaine. During the arrests on Jan. 25, throughout South Jersey, federal and state agents seized at least 20 pounds of crack and powder cocaine as well as \$244,000 in cash, two handguns and a shotgun.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/37av2j>

47. SC: Fayetteville police seize marijuana, cocaine worth millions (AP, 1 Mar 2007)

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. - A ton of marijuana and 26 kilograms of cocaine were seized in a nearly yearlong investigation, Fayetteville police said Thursday. Police also confiscated about \$3 million in cash, a house and eight automobiles. The first arrest was last April when a person was caught receiving five kilograms of cocaine, Capt. Bobby Chapman said. "We continued our surveillance," Chapman said. "This operation has been going on for about a year. It was a Fayetteville-centered business with connections in Texas." Ten people, who have known each other since high school in Fayetteville, have been charged. The investigation began after one person was arrested last April when five kilograms of cocaine that came from Texas were seized.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.myrtlebeachonline.com/mld/myrtlebeachonline/news/local/16810876.htm>

48. TX: Austin's Biggest Heroin Dealers Busted (FOX 7 News, 5 Mar 2007)

AUSTIN - Austin Police say the city's biggest heroin dealers are out of business and behind bars. The bust is a result of a long term joint operation with the federal government. Police say 14 people were involved with selling and distributing black-tar heroin or heroin from Mexico. APD's Organized Crime Narcotic Conspiracy Unit started

investigating 30-year-old Henry Castro and his two brothers for heroin trafficking activities back in 2005. The Drug Enforcement Administration and the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, and Firearms were also part of the investigation. As a result, a federal grand jury indicted James Lara and 13 other members of the Castro organization last month. Police say the Castro members came into power after another lengthy joint operation busted the Celedon Group for heroin trafficking last year.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

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

49. TX: Texas Raid Uncovers 19,000 Pounds of Drugs (click2houston.com, 6 Mar 2007)

More than 19,000 pounds of marijuana hidden inside two school buses were seized by federal and local law enforcement in a southeast Houston raid Sunday, KPRC Local 2 reported. The remote southeast Houston location was identified as an off-loading and distribution site for smuggling illegal drugs across the border, officials said. Law enforcement officers said they discovered several vehicles containing large amounts of marijuana when they entered the area. The street value of the 9 1/2 tons of marijuana is estimated at \$13 million, officials said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.officer.com/article/article.jsp?id=35188&siteSection=1>

50. U.S. smashes Mexican drug gang (Reuters, 01 Mar 2007)

U.S. agents smashed a Mexican drug trafficking network by arresting more than 400 people and seizing over 18 tonnes of narcotics, authorities said on Wednesday. U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales said the 20-month operation dismantled the Victor Emilio Cazares-Gastelum network, which smuggled cocaine, methamphetamine and marijuana from Mexico and distributed it across the United States. Police nabbed 66 people in coordinated raids across four states, bringing the total number of arrests to more than 400, he told a news conference in San Diego, California.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSN2846509120070301>

51. Accused Mexican Kingpin's Trial Delayed (AP, 04 Mar 2007)

A trial for an alleged Mexican drug kingpin accused of smuggling as much as six tons of cocaine a month into the U.S. has been postponed until later this year. Prosecutors and defense attorneys asked that the case of Osiel Cardenas-Guillen be declared complex since evidence goes back years, witnesses from around the country are expected to be called to testify and hundreds of reports from several law enforcement investigations are expected to be submitted. A federal judge agreed, giving attorneys more time to prepare for the trial that had been scheduled for April, the Brownsville Herald reported Saturday. Court documents now show Cardenas-Guillen won't face a trial until late 2007. Cardenas-Guillen, 39, was extradited to the United States in January and is being held in Houston. He faces 17 counts of drug importing and distribution, as well as three charges of threatening a federal agent and one count of money laundering. He faces a maximum sentence of life in prison if convicted.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtopnews.com/?nid=104&sid=1078165>

52. Canada: Opium, cocaine seized at Pearson (The Mississauga News, 28 Feb 2007)

A protein powder punch is a well-known drink among weight lifters, but the term might have new meaning for Canada customs officers after they busted a man at Mississauga's Pearson International Airport last night. Customs officers made the arrest after they found one kilogram of opium that was hidden in a container of protein powder. The drugs, believed to be worth more than \$40,000, were discovered by an x-ray scan while a Canadian resident who was returning on a flight from India, was passing through customs.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.mississauganews.com/mi/peelpolice/story/3896378p-4506093c.html>

53. Dominican Government says the U.S. helps little against drugs (Dominican Today, 6 Mar 2007)

SANTO DOMINGO.- The war against organized crime and the Dominican Government's actions to eradicate it get little help from the United States Government, says Interior and Police minister Franklin Almeyda. However, the official affirms that crime has dropped considerably in the places where the Plan Safe Barrio has been implemented, an initiative which could be extended to 98 sectors this year. Almeyda said those efforts aim to reduce violence and stressed that measures have been adopted to control organized crime, regarding drug trafficking, but again complained of the United States' little cooperation to fight it.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.dominicantoday.com/app/article.aspx?id=22877>

54. Guatemala to ask Bush for drug fight aid (AP, 5 Mar 2007)

GUATEMALA CITY - Guatemala knows it is losing the battle against drug trafficking — its police, military and justice system are beholden to traffickers who use the country as a way station for Colombian drug shipments to the U.S. In a case that has laid bare the extent of corruption in the Central American nation, FBI agents are trying to help discover who ordered the murders of three Salvadoran politicians and the Guatemalan police officers who said they were told to kill them. The killings and apparent cover-up has exposed the seemingly insurmountable challenges President Oscar Berger faces as he tries to regain control of a defiant and even criminal police force.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/ysmmb4>

55. Venezuela: Report looks at cocaine trade (USA Today, 2 Mar 2007)

Venezuela has become a significant player in the flow of cocaine from Colombia to the USA by allowing drug smugglers to operate freely and making little effort to cooperate with U.S. anti-drug efforts, a State Department report said Thursday. The number of flights from Venezuela suspected of ferrying Colombian cocaine to the Dominican Republic and Haiti — key transfer points for U.S.-bound shipments of the drug — increased 167% last year, State Department Assistant Secretary Anne Patterson said. She added that the leftist government of Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez, a frequent critic

of the United States, has allowed drug trafficking to flourish. "Venezuela's permissive and corrupt environment led to more trafficking, fewer seizures and an increase in suspected drug flights (from Venezuela) over the past 12 months," Patterson said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

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

56. Bolivia: Scientists Seek Coca's Medical Benefits (AP, 6 Mar 2007)

LA PAZ, Bolivia - Cuban scientists are studying if there are any medicinal benefits of the coca leaf, a Bolivian official said Tuesday, signaling a possible expansion of President Evo Morales' plans to develop more legal products from a plant that is the chief ingredient of cocaine. Felix Barra, minister of coca and alternative development, told Bolivian radio the Cubans have visited growing areas and would later go to research centers "to examine the benefits of the coca leaf from a pharmaceutical perspective."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory?id=2928853>

57. Guyana: Accused cocaine corilla shipper refused bail (Stabroek News, 1 Mar 2007)

A man accused of shipping 13 kilos of cocaine stashed in corilla on a Caribbean Air-lines flight bound for Canada, which was discovered in Trinidad, was yesterday refused bail at the George-town Magistrate's Court. Sherwin Dexter Bentick, 29, a vendor who resides at 56 William Street, Kitty pleaded not guilty to possession of narcotics for the purpose of trafficking before Acting Chief Magistrate Cecil Sullivan. It is alleged that on February 19 at the Cheddi Jagan Inter-national Airport, Timehri he trafficked in narcotics by transporting and exporting cocaine. According to the facts of the case Bentick who is a licensed shipper had made bookings to ship cargo through Carib-bean Airlines to Canada via Trinidad. He went to the airport and presented 81 pieces of cargo which included boxes of mangoes and baskets of vegetables including corilla.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.stabroeknews.com/index.pl/article_general_news?id=56515095

58. Guyana: Major traffickers here untouched -trading of drugs for weapons seen (Stabroek News, 2 Mar 2007)

Charging that drug trafficking and money laundering were pumping billions into the local construction sector, the US government yesterday again blasted the government here for not succeeding against major traffickers and warned that in some cases drugs were being traded for weapons. The US also chided the administration for introducing no new drug policy initiative last year and also its failure to implement the ambitious 2005-2009 National Drug Strategy Master Plan that was launched in June 2005. In the annual State Department International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, Washington said that Guyana is neither an important regional nor an offshore financial centre, nor does it have any free trade zones. However, the scale of money laundering is thought to be large relative to the size of the economy, with some experts estimating that the informal economy is 40 to 60 percent of the size of the formal sector.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.stabroeknews.com/index.pl/article_general_news?id=56515185

59. Europe's cocaine flow from Nairobi - UN report (Reuters, 1 Mar 2007)

NAIROBI - European cocaine habits are increasingly fed through African nations and the Kenyan capital is the major transit point for trafficking the drug by air, the United Nations drug watchdog said on Thursday. "Cocaine is smuggled by air into Europe via cities in eastern Africa, mainly Nairobi," the U.N.'s International Narcotics Control Board said in its 2006 annual report on drug trafficking trends. "Significant seizures of heroin" are regularly made at airports in Kenya, Mauritius, Ethiopia and Tanzania, the report said. Police seized a 1.1 tonne cache of cocaine in December 2004 worth an estimated \$88 million, one of Africa's biggest drug seizures to date. Several Kenya Airways employees soon after were caught smuggling the drug into London's Heathrow Airport, raising fears some of the cocaine had escaped from police custody.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/3939rl>

60. Spain: Six members of a cocaine smuggling network have been arrested in Málaga (Typically Spanish, 1 Mar 2007)

Police in Málaga have arrested six members of a drug smuggling network which brought cocaine into Spain from Venezuela. They used a 'safe house' in Málaga city centre, where the couriers who transported the drugs were put up until nature took its course, and the drugs were expelled from their bodies. There are four Spaniards among the arrests, with two others from Venezuela and Colombia.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.typicallyspanish.com/news/publish/article_9206.shtml

61. Afghan opium 'hits record output' (BBC, 01 Mar 2007)

Opium production in Afghanistan reached record levels last year, the United States has said. The US State Department's annual report on narcotics also said the flourishing drugs trade was undermining the fight against the Taleban. It warned of a possible increase in heroin overdoses in Europe and the Middle East as a result. Poppy production rose 25% in 2006, a figure US Assistant Secretary of State Ann Patterson described as alarming. Four years after the US and its British allies began combating poppy production, Afghanistan still accounts for 90% of the world's opium trade.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/6410263.stm

62. Australia: 21kg cocaine import: two men charged (Sidney Morning Herald, 28 Feb 2007)

Alleged drug runners tried to smuggle a 21kg package of cocaine worth \$3 million into Australia from Colombia hidden in a computer monitor, a court heard. Billy Sergio Palamene, 48, from Northgate in Brisbane, and 31-year-old Ruben Hurtado, from Matraville in Sydney, were arrested by Australian Federal Police officers in Brisbane last night after police received a tip-off about the alleged importation.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2vg599>

CYBERTHREAT & THEFT

63. New "watermark" system scours the net for infringement, notifies owners (ars technical, 27 Feb 2007)

Watermarks date back at least to the 13th century, when paper manufacturers found a way to "mark" sheets with an unremovable, barely-visible signature to denote either the paper's origin, ownership, or both. Watermarks have come a long way, and companies such as Macrovision and Digimarc have made a king's ransom offering "digital watermarking technology" to today's purveyors of content. These days, digital watermarking is now being tasked to make money on unauthorized file distribution. The proposition is simple: what if video and audio content flowed freely online, sans DRM, but owners were somehow compensated when files were played or accessed? That's the basic idea behind Digimarc's latest patent.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://arstechnica.com/news.ars/post/20070227-8937.html>

64. Justice Department takes aim at image-sharing sites (c|net, 2 Mar 2007)

The Bush administration has accelerated its Internet surveillance push by proposing that Web sites must keep records of who uploads photographs or videos in case police determine the content is illegal and choose to investigate, CNET News.com has learned. That proposal surfaced Wednesday in a private meeting during which U.S. Department of Justice officials, including Assistant Attorney General Rachel Brand, tried to convince industry representatives such as AOL and Comcast that data retention would be valuable in investigating terrorism, child pornography and other crimes. The discussions were described to News.com by several people who attended the meeting.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://news.com.com/2102-1028_3-6163679.html?tag=st.util.print

65. Reuters to start financial MySpace (The Guardian, 2 Mar 2007)

Reuters is planning to launch its own version of MySpace this year - though its community website will not be aimed at teenagers. Instead, fund managers, traders and analysts are being targeted. Reuters hopes to draw from the 70,000 subscribers of its messaging service as a starting point for its foray into the fast-growing sector of community websites.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://business.guardian.co.uk/story/0,,2024687,00.html>

66. Science agency chastised for its spending priorities (By Aliya Sternstein, National Journal's Technology Daily, 2 Mar 2007)

House appropriators from both parties say they are baffled by some of the priorities -- or lack thereof -- in the National Science Foundation's budget request for fiscal 2008. Cybersecurity was absent from a list of priorities that NSF Director Arden Bement shared with the House Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee in his opening testimony at a Thursday hearing. And one lawmaker said other areas of emphasis, such as climate change and ocean research, sound like responsibilities that belong to other agencies. Although Bement's statement did highlight

NSF's plan to continue funding a program aimed at improving science and mathematics education and teaching, lawmakers immediately noted that NSF is proposing to decrease funding for its major educational account.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36265&dcn=e_gvet

67. Canada: Court documents claim Mafia bookies did \$1 billion in Internet gambling (CanWest News Service; Montreal Gazette, 6 Mar 2007)

MONTREAL -An alleged Mafia underboss was running a sport bookmaking syndicate through which almost half a billion dollars flowed in a period of just 11 months, according to police. Authorities claim Francesco del Balso, 36, ran 25 bookmaking operations in Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto, which del Balso himself allegedly boasted did more than \$1 billion in business. In Quebec, del Balso and his partner Lorenzo Giordano, 43, allegedly operated Internet and telephone sports gambling out of houses in Kahnawake, Montreal and Laval, according to police. According to newly released court documents, the bookmaking shop in Kahnawake from December 2004 to November 2005 did \$391.9 million in business.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2dslz6>

68. UK: Children of 11 to be fingerprinted (Times Online, 4 Mar 2007)

CHILDREN aged 11 to 16 are to have their fingerprints taken and stored on a secret database, internal Whitehall documents reveal. The leaked Home Office plans show that the mass fingerprinting will start in 2010, with a batch of 295,000 youngsters who apply for passports. The Home Office expects 545,000 children aged 11 and over to have their prints taken in 2011, with the figure settling at an annual 495,000 from 2014. Their fingerprints will be held on a database also used by the Immigration and Nationality Directorate to store the fingerprints of hundreds of thousands of asylum seekers. The plans are outlined in a series of "restricted" documents circulating among officials in the Identity and Passport Service. They form part of the programme for the introduction of new biometric passports and ID cards.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article1466943.ece>

TECHNOLOGY

69. Drug for easier radiation treatment tested (UPI, 1 Mar 2007)

SAN DIEGO - A California drug company has an all-in-one product that could be used to protect first responders from radiation in the event of a nuclear accident or attack. Hollis-Eden Pharmaceuticals said its Acute Radiation Syndrome, or ARS, drug Neumune would enable people exposed to radiation to be quickly treated with a single agent rather than requiring a stay in a hospital. The overrunning of hospitals and clinics in the aftermath of a nuclear incident has long been a concern of emergency planners in the United States. "In the event of a nuclear mass-casualty event, a stand-alone therapy not requiring supportive clinical care would be critical for improving survival among first responders,

healthcare providers, military personnel and the general public," the San Diego company said in a recent news release.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/3873vk>

70. The rice with human genes (UK Daily Mail, 6 Mar 2007)

The first GM food crop containing human genes is set to be approved for commercial production. The laboratory-created rice produces some of the human proteins found in breast milk and saliva. Its U.S. developers say they could be used to treat children with diarrhoea, a major killer in the Third World. The rice is a major step in so-called Frankenstein Foods, the first mingling of human-origin genes and those from plants. But the U.S. Department of Agriculture has already signalled it plans to allow commercial cultivation.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

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

RESOURCES

71. "State and Urban Area Homeland Security Plans and Exercises: Issues for the 110th Congress," Congressional Research Service Report updated January 3, 2007

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/homsec/RS22393.pdf>

72. "The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA): A Summary," Congressional Research Service Report updated January 3, 2007

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL32683.pdf>

73. "Data Mining and Homeland Security: An Overview," Congressional Research Service Report updated January 18, 2007

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/homsec/RL31798.pdf>

74. "Airport Improvement Program: Issues for Congress," Congressional Research Service Report February 26, 2007

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL33891.pdf>

75. DOE Marking Handbook For Classified Documents (Contributed by Steven Aftergood, Federation of American Scientists, www.fas.org)

A reference manual to assist government employees and contractors in correctly marking classified Department of Energy records has recently been published and distributed by DOE. See "DOE Marking Handbook: How to Mark Matter Containing Classified Information and Unclassified Controlled Information," September 26, 2006
CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

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

EVENTS

76. Coping With Crisis 101 – Managing an Aviation Disaster is coming to Nashville, TN

The Hilton Garden Inn – Nashville Metropolitan Airport, March 7, 2007, is the site for the popular aviation education training program Coping With Crisis 101 – Managing an Aviation Disaster, co-sponsored by the Tennessee Aviation Association. Learn how to prepare a detailed crisis management plan, work with the NTSB as a “party” to an investigation, and deal with hostile reporters and an unrelenting news media in the event the unthinkable happens to your company. The program was designed and is taught by 30-year aviation veteran Steve Bassett who is also a former television and radio broadcaster. Steve is an instrument-rated pilot and holds multiple certificates from the National Transportation Safety Board in aviation accident investigations and other disciplines. For more information and to register for the program go to www.thecommunicationsworkshop.com or contact The Communications Workshop at (301) 483-0158.

FULL REPORTS

**77. REAL ID Proposed Guidelines: Questions & Answers (DHS, 1 Mar 2007)
What is REAL ID?**

REAL ID is a nationwide effort intended to prevent terrorism, reduce fraud, and improve the reliability and accuracy of identification documents that State governments issue.

Where did this effort originate?

The 9/11 Commission recommended that the U.S. improve its system for issuing secure identification documents. In the Commission’s words, “At many entry points to vulnerable facilities, including gates for boarding aircraft, sources of identification are the last opportunity to ensure that people are who they say they are and to check whether they are terrorists.” The Commission specifically urged the federal government to “set standards for the issuance of...sources of identification, such as driver’s licenses.” Congress responded to this key recommendation by passing the Real ID Act

What is a REAL ID license needed for?

The REAL ID Act requires that a REAL ID driver’s license be used for “official purposes,” as defined by DHS. In the proposed rule, DHS is proposing to limit the official purposes of a REAL ID license to those listed by Congress in the law: accessing a

Federal facility; boarding Federally-regulated commercial aircraft; and entering nuclear power plants. DHS may consider expanding these official purposes through future rulemakings to maximize the security benefits of REAL ID.

What was released on March 1?

On March 1, 2007, DHS released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) for the REAL ID act. This is a major step towards advancing the general requirements of the law into actionable plans for DHS and the States. The text of the NPRM is NOT the final rule. Rather, it is a draft of the rule that is being submitted for public comment. Constructive comments, both affirming and debating items in the NPRM, will help DHS determine the final rule.

Additionally, the NPRM, and the final rule, specify **minimum** requirements. States are encouraged to work beyond the minimum requirements as appropriate for their constituent's needs.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.dhs.gov/xprevprot/laws/gc_1172767635686.shtm

78. Spies of all stripes have discovered that there is life after the Cold War: ESPIONAGE, the Sequel (By James Kitfield, Air Force Magazine Online, March 2007)

If there ever was a Golden Age of international espionage, the Cold War era was it. The superpowers and their satellites and allies maintained enormous spying establishments, spending scores of billions of dollars to employ thousands of professional case officers, spies, and analysts and finance their advanced equipment and sophisticated infrastructure.

Even though the Cold War is over, military espionage, at least, continues to thrive. In fact, it never slackened at all. Increasingly, foreign spies are hidden among us, recruited from among the more than 30 million foreign businessmen, scientists, students, researchers, academics, and tourists entering the United States each year.

Take, for example, the case of Chi Mak, a Chinese-born electronics engineer working for a US defense contractor. According to the federal government, he was part of a family that spied together and apparently hoped to prosper together. The FBI has alleged that Mak, along with his wife and brother, can be heard on FBI wiretaps discussing ways to smuggle an encrypted computer disk to China. The disk in question, the bureau added, was loaded with sensitive technological data.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.afa.org/magazine/march2007/0307espionage.asp>

79. World Community Shares Vision on Threat Caused by Illegal Drugs - State Department issues annual report on global drug trade (By Eric Green, USINFO Staff Writer, 1 Mar 2007)

Washington -- International partners working with the United States to fight the illicit drug trade share a "clear vision" about the need to meet that challenge "head on," says U.S. State Department official Anne Patterson.

Speaking at a March 1 briefing to release the State Department's 2007 *International Narcotics Control Strategy Report* (INCSR), Patterson said U.S. partners in the anti-drug fight include countries "whose developing economies and democratic institutions are threatened" by illicit drugs, "which mortgage the future of their people and their environment."

Patterson, assistant secretary of state for international narcotics and law enforcement affairs, pointed to several countries that are having success confronting the drug trade, particularly Colombia. That Andean nation, she said, is "starkly different from the mid-1990s, when the country was reeling from drug cartels and insurgent violence."

Colombia continues to attack the drug trade and the terrorist organizations that profit from it, said Patterson, who served as U.S. ambassador to Colombia from 2000 to 2003.

Although coca cultivation persists in Colombia, she said, "aggressive eradication" resulted in the destruction of what could have become billions of dollars of cocaine on U.S. streets. The coca plant is used to make cocaine.

Patterson also singled out Mexico for praise, saying that the administrations of President Felipe Calderón and his predecessor, Vicente Fox, have "cracked down" on drug traffickers "more than any previous" Mexican governments. In cooperation with the United States, the Mexican government has seized drugs, eradicated illegal crops and extradited "some of Mexico's most notorious traffickers," said Patterson.

She also said Iran is playing a "very positive role" in fighting the Afghan opium trade, by being active in interdicting shipments of the crop from Afghanistan.

The Iranians view the opium trade as a "major social and law enforcement problem" and have been the "most aggressive," by far, of Afghanistan's neighbors in interdicting the Afghan opium crop, said Patterson.

DRUG CHALLENGE IN AFGHANISTAN, BOLIVIA, VENEZUELA

The 24th annual INCSR cites Afghanistan, Bolivia and Venezuela as being particular problems in the drug trade. The report, issued in two volumes, said the resurgence of Afghan opium cultivation has increased the flow of heroin to Europe, Russia and the Near East, which "undermines those societies and the consolidation of democracy and security in Afghanistan."

Patterson said cultivation of the opium poppy in Afghanistan increased by an "alarming" 59 percent, making the 2006 crop the largest on record. Of particular worry, she said, is the Taliban's involvement in the drug trade. Patterson said the Taliban leaders publicly have linked themselves to poppy cultivation, and drug profits now support elements of the Taliban and fund attacks on U.S. and international troops in Afghanistan. The opium poppy is used to manufacture heroin.

Patterson attributed much of the poppy problem in Afghanistan to the fact the Afghan government “doesn't have control of [its] territory.” Cultivation of opium poppies soared in 2006 in two Afghan provinces -- Helmand and Kandahar -- “because there is basically a lack of law enforcement and control,” said Patterson.

Regarding Venezuela, Patterson said that nation’s “permissive and corrupt environment” led to more drug trafficking, fewer seizures and an increase in suspected drug-transport flights. From 2005 to 2006, she said, Venezuela saw a 167 percent increase in aerial cocaine trafficking to the island of Hispaniola, which contains Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Patterson said that Venezuela did a “great job” for years on counternarcotics enforcement. That nation was “one of the best in the entire” Western Hemisphere, she said, but “frankly that's all stopped.”

The United States still has some anti-narcotics programs with Venezuela, said Patterson, adding that “we want to work with the Venezuelans ... but we just haven't gotten very far in recent years.”

Bolivian President Evo Morales advocated increased legal cultivation and the “industrialization” of coca, said Patterson. She said that even though Bolivia met its goal in 2006 of eradicating 5,000 hectares of coca, this represents the lowest level of eradication in 10 years. Industrialization refers to allowing cocaine’s primary ingredient to be used in the manufacture of such goods as medicine, toothpaste, shampoo, liquors and food. (See [related article](#).)

MONEY LAUNDERING

The INCSR’s second volume is devoted to money laundering and terrorist financing. Patterson said that even though money laundering long has been “intertwined” with the drug trade, the global community has become more aware since the September 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States of “terrorists using underground systems to move money and transfer assets.”

The report said that focusing on money laundering “is one of the most valuable tools law enforcement has to combat international crime.” A focus on money laundering, said the report, “can accomplish what many other law enforcement tools cannot” in attacking such threats as narcotics trafficking, alien smuggling, intellectual property theft, corruption and terrorism. (See [related article](#).)

The [full text](#) of the INCSR and Patterson’s [prepared remarks](#) are available on the State Department Web site.

(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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