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CABLE Gram Volume 3 Issue 14

14 March 2006 *CABLE Gram*™

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Take care,

Zhi Hamby-Nye, Editor

Henry Ziegler, Associate Editor

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Theft, NBC Weapons, Cybercrimes, Smuggling, Narco Trafficking, Hazardous Materials and other related topics.

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FEDERAL

1. Bush signs renewal of Patriot Act into law (AP, 09 Mar 2006)

After a long battle with Congress that went down to the wire, President Bush signed a renewal of the USA Patriot Act on Thursday, a day before 16 major provisions of the old law expire. Bush said the Patriot Act is vital to win the war on terror and protect Americans. He recalled the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and said the country is still at war. “We saw the terrorists’ destructive vision for us when they killed nearly 3,000 men, women and children,” Bush said. “In the face of this ruthless threat, our nation has made a clear choice — we will confront this mortal danger, we will stay on the offensive and we’re not going to wait to be attacked again.”

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/11747113/>

2. House panel postpones work on Homeland Security authorization bill (GovExec.com, By Chris Strohm, 13 Mar 2006)

Republicans on the House Homeland Security Committee have postponed work on the fiscal 2007 Homeland Security Department authorization bill, prompting heated criticism from Democrats who say the move might undermine the committee's credibility and prevent the measure from being completed this year. According to a committee aide, Republican committee leaders say the delay is temporary while they work to pass a maritime security bill. All 15 Democrats on the panel fired off a letter Thursday to Homeland Security Chairman Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., opposing the move.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33585&dcn=e_gvet

3. Justice Department Consolidates Counterterrorism Effort (Dept. of State, 13 Mar 2006)

Attorney Kenneth Wainstein is President Bush’s choice to head a newly reorganized division at the Justice Department to aid in the war against terrorism, the White House announced March 13.

The reorganization, which fulfills a recommendation made by the 2005 Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission, will bring together all of the department’s national security, counterterrorism, counterintelligence and foreign intelligence functions, the president said.

In March 13 comments on the announcement, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales said Wainstein also will serve as the department's liaison to the director of National Intelligence.

The federal government has taken a number of steps since the 2001 terrorist attacks against the United States to improve counterterror operations, including the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, the National Counter-Terrorism Center and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

Because al-Qaida promises new terrorist attacks, the attorney general told department employees "we must never tire from our efforts" to thwart them.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?Q59031CCC>

4. Military says training, gear needed for future disasters (By Megan Scully, CongressDaily, 13 Mar 2006)

The National Guard is beginning to address flaws in its response to Hurricane Katrina, but more work - and money - is needed to better prepare the state-run units to respond to catastrophes, the chief of the National Guard Bureau said Friday. The Guard particularly needs a boost in funding for new gear to replace much of its best equipment either damaged or left behind in Iraq and Afghanistan. To make up for the shortfalls, states have signed equipment-sharing compacts. But Lt. Gen. Steven Blum said he feared those agreements may not be enough to prepare the Guard to respond quickly to domestic disasters. "The equipment piece is where I need help from this body," Blum told the Senate Armed Services Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee. "We need to address the shortages here, now."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33590&dcn=e_gvet

5. Dubai Firm to Give Up Stake in U.S. Ports (AP, 9 Mar 2006)

WASHINGTON - Bowing to ferocious opposition in Congress, a Dubai-owned company signaled surrender Thursday in its quest to take over operations at U.S. ports. "DP World will transfer fully the U.S. operations ... to a United States entity," the firm's top executive, H. Edward Bilkey, said in an announcement that capped weeks of controversy. Relieved Republicans in Congress said the firm had pledged full divestiture, a decision that one senator said had been approved personally by the prime minister of the United Arab Emirates.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://apnews.myway.com/article/20060309/D8G8BQ000.html>

6. Arab company not only concern at ports _ govt worried about mob (AP, 9 Mar 2006)

NEW YORK - Justice Department lawyers warned eight months ago that a nefarious element had infiltrated important East Coast ports, but they weren't talking about terrorists or Arab shipping companies. They were talking about the Mafia. In a civil suit filed in July, prosecutors in Brooklyn accused the International Longshoremen's

Association, the 65,000-member union that supplies labor to ports from Florida to Maine, of being a "vehicle for organized crime" on the waterfront. Packed with tales of corruption, embezzling and extortion, the complaint accused union executives of being associates of the Genovese and Gambino crime families.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?K146325CC>

7. Security lapses found at U.S. ports (AP, 12 Mar 2006)

Lapses by private port operators, shipping lines or truck drivers could allow terrorists to smuggle weapons of mass destruction into the United States, according to a government review of security at American seaports. The \$75 million, three-year study by the Homeland Security Department included inspections at a New Jersey cargo terminal involved in the dispute over a Dubai company's now-abandoned bid to take over significant operations at six major U.S. ports. The previously undisclosed results from the study found that cargo containers can be opened secretly during shipment to add or remove items without alerting U.S. authorities, according to government documents marked "sensitive security information" and obtained by the Associated Press.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20060312-011930-5279r.htm>

8. Ports Deal Could Work Without Buyer (AP, 12 Mar 2006)

Congress will closely watch a Dubai-owned company to be sure it transfers its U.S. port operations to an American company, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist said Sunday. But Frist, R-Tenn., acknowledged that if an American buyer is not found, and the Bush administration determines there are no security risks, a deal for DP World to manage and operate major U.S. ports still could go through. "If everything that the president, the administration has said, and that is that there is absolutely no threatening or jeopardy to our security and safety of the American people ... I don't see how the deal would have to be canceled," Frist said on ABC's "This Week." DP World pledged last week to fully transfer its U.S. port operations amid growing congressional resistance to its \$6.8 billion purchase of London-based Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co. The British company handles significant operations at ports in New Jersey, New York, Baltimore, New Orleans, Miami and Philadelphia _ plus lesser dockside activities at 16 other ports in this country. DP World said the divestiture was "based on an understanding that DP World will not suffer economic loss." Some analysts have suggested finding a U.S. buyer willing to pay the \$700 million that DP World wants might be difficult.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtop.com/index.php?nid=116&sid=705391&sidelines=1>

9. Congress pushes ahead on security review reform (Reuters, 10 Mar 2006)

WASHINGTON - U.S. lawmakers said on Friday they would press ahead to reform how the government reviews foreign acquisitions even after Dubai Ports World gave up management of some U.S. port terminals it recently bought. The Senate Banking Committee said it planned to vote during the week of March 27 on legislation to improve oversight and openness of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, or CFIUS, which approved the deal. "Clearly there are deficiencies in the way that CFIUS

operates," said committee spokesman Andrew Gray. "We want to look at the different proposals on CFIUS, see what's do-able and what's not, and try to get as much support as possible and move it through." CFIUS is led by the U.S. Treasury and has 12 government representatives, including the departments of Homeland Security, Defense and State. But numerous lawmakers have said the process is inadequate.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?J57124CCC>

10. Airport Security's Achilles Heel (By Anonymous)

As a frequent flyer, I hesitate to write this article, but as an auditor of security and information systems, it's the right thing to do. If you've ever wondered whether airport security has improved since 9/11, let me set you straight: It has not. There is a gaping hole in airport security, and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has done nothing despite being alerted to this vulnerability more than 11 months ago. The TSA's website states there are four ways to obtain a boarding pass: • Go to your airline's ticket counter at the airport. • Use curbside check-in. • Use your airline's self-service ticket kiosk in the airport lobby (if available). • Print the boarding pass from your airline's website (not all airlines provide this option). Let's be honest—there are really five ways. The fifth is to print your own boarding pass using your computer, and it's amazingly simple to doctor the name, date, time, flight number and even the airline name and logo. The modification process is sometimes as simple as using an html editor or even Microsoft Word. How can this be? Because, at most airports, TSA personnel do nothing more than visually review the boarding pass. It is not checked against airline records by scanning the barcode until boarding. Moreover, there are no standards for boarding passes—each airline has a different format. Can you actually get on an airplane using this approach? Probably not, but you can certainly make it past the security screening checkpoints.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.csoonline.com/read/020106/caveat021706.html>

11. TSA Background Checks Cost Man His Job (WXIX, 9 Mar 2006)

National security fears have cost a local man his job. Under the USA Patriot Act every truck driver who hauls hazardous materials must go through a background check. But FOX19 found out sometimes those checks are taking months too long. The Patriot Act put the TSA in charge of doing background checks when haz-mat drivers renew their licenses. If the driver clears they should be notified in 30 days. It took three months for Jim Smith of Mason. Smith says, "I believe in keeping America safe but come on, there has to be a better way than keeping drivers out of work." He says he tried getting an explanation from the TSA but never received one. What he did get, was a pink slip from his boss, who had no use for a driver who couldn't drive. According to the American Trucking Association, other drivers are going through the same hardship as Smith. They say in some instances, they've heard that drivers applications are somehow being lost in the process.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fox19.com/Global/story.asp?S=4606317&nav=0zHF>

12. Senate panel votes to double size of border force (By Michael Posner, CongressDaily, 13 Mar 2006)

The Senate Judiciary Committee voted Thursday to add more border agents, investigators and fencing to stem rising illegal immigration as it worked its way through a major immigration reform bill. In its third day of marking up the bill, the committee discussed nearly 30 amendments, approving a dozen of them by voice vote and postponing the rest for action next week. In action during the day, the committee agreed to authorize over five years more than 10,000 new customs and border patrol agents, 1,000 investigators, and 1,250 port of entry inspectors. There was a dispute between Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., principal author of the amendment to boost the number of border agents, and Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., over exactly how many border patrol agents would be added in addition to the 11,300 border agents now. Committee staff said they would have to resolve the exact numbers later.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33580&dcn=e_gvet

13. Senate panel OKs new border fencing in Arizona (Washington Times, 10 Mar 2006)

The Senate Judiciary Committee agreed yesterday to erect new fencing along parts of the Arizona-Mexico border but stopped far short of a House proposal to build more fences over a wider area. Sen. Jon Kyl, Arizona Republican and a member of the committee, pushed through the amendment to the massive immigration reform legislation being debated by the Senate. The Kyl proposal calls for 200 miles of fencing and vehicle barriers along Arizona's border with Mexico, but no new fences in California, New Mexico and Texas. "It will make it much more difficult for smugglers and illegal aliens to gain entry, significantly reduce crime rates in border towns, and preserve fragile desert lands and archeological resources which are impacted by illegal pedestrian and vehicular traffic," he said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20060310-120959-1171r.htm>

14. Senators Eye 'Virtual,' Not Real Border Wall (Local6News, 9 Mar 2006)

WASHINGTON - Senators writing an immigration reform bill are debating whether an actual or "virtual" fence should be built along parts of the U.S.-Mexico border. Republicans are split on a proposal for a "virtual" fence, using cameras and other technology to monitor illegal traffic. Some want more real fences or walls for long stretches of the line. Last year, the House passed a measure calling for hundreds of miles of fencing at heavily trafficked areas on the southwestern border and study of a possible fence along the Canadian border.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.local6.com/news/7849497/detail.html>

15. Lawmakers draft bill to elevate reserve officer to U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff (By Megan Scully, CongressDaily, 8 Mar 2006)

The Senate National Guard Caucus is drafting legislation that would add a four-star Guard commander to the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, a bold move to put a reserve officer

in the highest echelon of military leadership. If enacted, the legislation would mark the first major change to the nation's premier military planning and advisory group in two decades. The move is intended to give the National Guard "more muscles" in dealing with the Pentagon bureaucracy and ensure that civilian and active-duty military leaders will consult the Guard on decisions affecting the force, Sen. Christopher (Kit) Bond, R-Mo., chairman of the caucus, said Wednesday.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0306/030806cdpm1.htm>

16. Police chiefs seek to restore enforcement funds (Washington Times, 12 Mar 2006)

Police chiefs from across the country want Congress to restore funding for critical law-enforcement programs, saying the Bush administration has cut more than \$1.1 billion from core programs vital to keeping communities nationwide safe. "The administration slashed funding for tried and true programs that law-enforcement agencies count on to keep our communities safe," said Mary Ann Viverette, police chief in Gaithersburg and president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). "We are hopeful that Congress will hear us and help us protect our hometowns and our homeland."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.washtimes.com/national/20060311-113642-1141r.htm>

17. DoD officials prepare for possible bird flu pandemic (by Elaine Wilson, Special to American Forces Press Service, 9 Mar 2006)

WASHINGTON - Defense Department officials are working to create a pandemic influenza plan in time for the Department of Homeland Defense's end-of-March deadline, a DoD medical official said recently. The plan will lay out the department's roles and responsibilities in varying stages of an avian influenza - or "bird flu" - outbreak, both at home and overseas, said Ellen Embrey, deputy assistant secretary of defense for force health protection and readiness, during a Joint Operations Medical Managers Course in San Antonio.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.dcmilitary.com/navy/seaservices/10_59/national_news/40058-1.html

18. Identity theft becoming more rampant, hard to prosecute (examiner-Enterprise, 9 Mar 2006)

Among all consumer fraud, identity theft tops the list, accounting for 255,000 (37 percent) of more than 686,000 complaints filed with the Federal Trade Commission last year. Identity theft occurs when someone uses a person's personal information without their permission to commit fraud or other crimes. How easy is it? According to the FTC, one bit of personal information is all someone needs to steal an identity. Credit card fraud was the most common form of reported identity theft, followed by phone or utilities fraud, bank fraud, and employment fraud. Internet-related complaints accounted for 46 percent of all fraud complaints, according to their web site.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.examiner-enterprise.com/articles/2006/03/07/business/b896.txt>

19. Minimizing Risk Of Attack On Electric Grid (UPI, 9 Mar 2006)

Boston - In the 2001 remake of the 1960 film "Ocean's Eleven," a team of larcenists detonate an electromagnetic pulse, essentially a broad-reaching burst of electromagnetic energy, to disable the electric grid of Las Vegas in order to breach the security system of the casino they are intending to rob. Electricity flickers in the city for 30 seconds and then resumes. But Joel Gordes, a former Air Force navigator and head of Environmental Energy Solutions, warned Tuesday at the Northeast Sustainable Energy annual conference that this fancy of director Stephen Soderberg's imagination could become a very real terrorist attack on America's centralized power system.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.spacewar.com/reports/Minimizing_Risk_Of_Attack_On_Electric_Grid.html

20. Senators critical of Energy Department's nuclear weapons spending (By David Ruppe, Global Security Newswire, 8 Mar 2006)

The Energy Department's \$6.4 billion nuclear weapons maintenance and research programs may be wasteful, a congressional committee chairman said at a hearing Tuesday, indicating he might be considering a funding cut. Senate Armed Services Strategic Forces Subcommittee Chairman Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., told National Nuclear Security Administration chief Linton Brooks he has "concerns about the efficiency" of Energy Department activities. "I am unconvinced that we are getting all we can for every dollar," Sessions said, echoing comments he made last month to Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman that suggested \$1 billion in savings could be made.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33565&dcn=e_gvet

21. Farms and ranches still vulnerable - Prevention and communication needed to prevent agroterrorism (The Hutchinson News, 13 Mar 2006)

DODGE CITY - Tall buildings and busy streets provide tempting targets for terrorists. So do the cattle fattening at Ken Winter's Ford County feedlot. "My fences were made to keep cattle in, not people out," he said of his 30,000-head feedlot in the middle of southwest Kansas' cattle industry. And while Winter weighs whether to install motion lights or video cameras to help ward off unwelcome visitors, a recent study finds that the nation's farmers and ranchers remain vulnerable to terrorism. The reason - a lack of resources, including rural law enforcement.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.hutchnews.com/news/regional/stories/farms031306.html>

22. Analysis: States steadily restricting info (AP, 11 Mar 2006)

States have steadily limited the public's access to government information since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, a new Associated Press analysis of laws in all 50 states has found. Legislatures have passed more than 1,000 laws changing access to information, approving more than twice as many measures that restrict information as laws that open government books. Some things your government doesn't have to tell you about: - The safety plan at your child's school, if you live in Iowa. - Medication errors at your grandparent's nursing home in North Carolina. - Disciplinary actions against Indiana state employees. The horror of the attacks spurred a wholesale re-examination of information

that could put the country in danger, and the state actions roughly mirror those on the federal level. Federal agencies responded by shutting down Web sites, pulling telephone directories and rethinking everything from dam blueprints to historical records.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/national/1110AP_Sunshine_Week.html

23. Canada: Cops bust identity theft ring (Ottawa Sun, 9 Mar 2006)

JOB SEEKERS who have been applying to four "companies" over the past three years may have been swindled by an Ottawa-based identity theft scam. City police said yesterday more than 100 people from as far away as Montreal and Toronto have fallen for a scheme that saw its kingpins offer high-salaried, non-existent jobs while stealing applicants' personal information. Det. Kevin Wilcox said the fraud unit is in the "infancy" of an investigation into an Orleans couple who allegedly operated the scam out of a Gardenway Dr. home. Last month, Canada Post received information from an Ottawa man who wasn't receiving mail at his residence. Postal officials discovered his mail had been transferred to another address, but he had never requested the switch.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://ottsun.canoe.ca/News/OttawaAndRegion/2006/03/09/1479106-sun.html>

24. UK: Probe into threat of terrorist strike on nuclear trains (Ham & High, 10 Mar 2006)

KEN Livingstone has ordered an investigation into the potential terrorist threat posed by trains carrying nuclear waste across London. The London mayor has announced an independent inquiry into the trains which travel along the North London line from West Hampstead to Camden Road. He said: "I have appointed consultants to undertake an independent risk assessment of trains carrying nuclear waste through London. "This will review the associated risks of routing trains carrying nuclear waste through London, including identifying what alternative transport routes could be used in order to reduce any identified risks."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?E63E54BCC>

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS

25. AZ: Illegal Alien Drop House Raids, Money Laundering (American Chronicle, 12 Mar 2006)

March 10, 2006, Mesa, Arizona. According to the Associated Press, recent strings of illegal alien drop-house raids were tied to a money laundering investigation, per the Arizona Financial Crimes Task Force. The three-week investigation by the Task Force has led to the apprehension of more than 150 illegal immigrants in Mesa since Friday, along with human smugglers. Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard on Thursday indicted eight people connected to the apprehensions in Mesa. They were indicted on charges of human smuggling, conspiracy, fraud, assisting a criminal syndicate, illegally conducting an enterprise and money laundering.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.americanchronicle.com/articles/viewArticle.asp?articleID=6768>

26. CA: Terrorism Wake-Up Call (Gilroy Dispatch, 9 Mar 2006)

Hollister - San Benito County law enforcement and agriculture officials got a crash course last week from the Department of Homeland Security in preventing and preparing for a possible terrorist attack on the food supply, which would have a devastating impact on public health and the local economy. The day-long seminar brought together officials from both law enforcement and the agriculture community in an effort to raise awareness about the vulnerability of the local food supply chain, and also what agencies and organizations would be charged with responding to an ag-related terrorist attack. Ron Ross, a senior biologist with the San Benito County Agriculture Commissioner's office, said the main goal of the seminar was to bring people together.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.gilroydispatch.com/news/contentview.asp?c=180815>

27. CA: Border agents arrested on smuggling charges (San Diego Union-Tribune, 9 Mar 2006)

SAN DIEGO – Two supervising U.S. Border Patrol agents were arrested Thursday on suspicion of smuggling undocumented immigrants in exchange for bribes from a smuggling ring, federal officials said. Mario Alvarez, 44, and Samuel McClaren, 43, both of Imperial, were indicted Tuesday on eight counts that include conspiracy to bring in aliens for financial gain, conspiracy to commit bribery and filing false tax returns, the U.S. Attorney's office announced. The indictment said the agents received bribes of approximately \$300,000 from members of the Javier Sanchez-Perfino Alien smuggling organization.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20060309-1237-bn09border.html>

28. GA: Local leaders in D.C. to speak on bid for biodefense facility (Gwinnett Daily Post, 9 Mar 2006)

WINDER - Regional economic leaders have stepped up their pitch for a national research facility that could fight pandemics such as bird flu, combat bioterrorism and pump millions of dollars into the economy. Top economic officials are in Washington, D.C., to meet with the state's political delegation on Capitol Hill about the so-called National Bio and Agro-defense Facility. Last week, Gov. Sonny Perdue announced the state was making a bid for the facility. The Ga. Highway 316 corridor appears to be the most likely spot, though it's unclear if the nearly 30-acre site would be in Gwinnett, Oconee, Barrow or on the University of Georgia campus. Several other states, including Texas and Maryland, are vying for the 500,000-square-foot research facility, which would fall under the the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?F227145CC>

29. GA: City in serious fix over the Middle Georgia Airport (Macon.com Opinion, 9 Mar 2006)

The Middle Georgia Regional Airport was in the cross hairs of the Federal Aviation Administration and the Transportation Security Administration, two agencies that are not

to be toyed with. While we don't know exactly what infractions were found at the airport, we do know the FAA has the power to yank the airport's operating certificate, shutting it down to commercial flights. Aside from FAA concerns, the security violations have to be taken seriously. Macon connects directly with Atlanta. Bags cleared here go straight to connecting flights there.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.macon.com/mld/macon/news/opinion/14050166.htm>

30. IL: Midway perimeter in line for tighter security (Chicago Sun Times, 9 Mar 2006)

Aviation security officers will undergo "comprehensive retraining" - and Midway Airport's three perimeter checkpoints will be redesigned - in response to an embarrassing breach that allowed an intoxicated man to sneak onto the tarmac, officials said Wednesday. Training of more than 225 security officers and supervisors will be conducted by the Department of Aviation in conjunction with the Transportation Security Administration. "Our goal is to have that [retraining] happen as soon as possible," said Aviation Department spokesman Wendy Abrams.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.suntimes.com/output/news/cst-nws-midway09.html>

31. IN: H5N1 isn't here yet, but planning is (Journal and Courier, 9 Mar 2006)

A deadly Asian strain of bird flu - big news the world over - hasn't hit the United States yet. But if it does, Greater Lafayette could, conceivably, be more susceptible than some parts of Indiana. Overseas travel is relatively common here, due to Purdue University's large foreign student population and executives involved in international trade. The virus has been found in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Middle East. "It is sort of like predicting an earthquake. You know it will happen somewhere, sometime, but you don't know how big, or whatever," said Pat Boardman, division director of infection control for Greater Lafayette Health Services, which operates Home Hospital and St. Elizabeth Medical Center. Purdue's spring break runs from March 13 to 17. Whether a student could carry the virus back "depends on the person's home conditions," Boardman said. Officials here are preparing for a possible outbreak of the rare disease, which can be passed to humans through the feces and respiratory secretions of birds.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.jconline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060309/NEWS/603090314/1152>

32. KY: Bioterrorism lab would create variety of jobs (Herald-Leader, 12 Mar 2006)

Few Pulaski County residents will get one of the highly paid jobs at a proposed federal bioterrorism lab. But they will get the spinoff. The proposed lab would bring 410 jobs with average salaries of \$74,000 to a county where the median household income is \$27,000 and 19 percent of the population lives below the poverty level. As scientists and other lab employees eat at restaurants, buy houses, send their children to school and shop for groceries, they would create a demand for more service and retail jobs, according to Paul Coomes, an economics professor at the University of Louisville.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.kentucky.com/mld/kentucky/14078973.htm>

33. MA: Delahunt wants House probe of wind farm's impact on radar (AP, 9 Mar 2006)

WASHINGTON -Massachusetts U.S. Rep. William Delahunt is asking for a hearing on whether the proposed Nantucket Sound wind farm's 130 turbines could hamper civilian and military radar systems in the area, possibly endangering homeland security. "It has national implications," Delahunt said. "We need answers. ... Otherwise we put the country at risk and air travel at risk." Delahunt, a Democrat, on Thursday asked the House Committee on Homeland Security to hold an oversight hearing on the issue as soon as possible. He personally delivered a letter to the panel's chairman, Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?W1F5225CC>

34. ME: Homeland Security report directs Maine's defense (keepmecurrent.com, 10 Mar 2006)

REGIONAL - It's been nearly four years since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 rattled the nation and prompted the concept of "homeland security." And while the reality of that day may have settled nervously in the back of our nation's consciousness, local and state agencies, along with their legislators, continue striving to prevent and prepare for a crisis situation here in Maine. Maine's task force on Homeland Security released its second interim report last month. Their observations and recommendations are being drafted in the form of legislation amendments before the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee chaired by local Sen. Bill Diamond, D-Windham. Maine takes an "all-hazards" approach to Homeland Security to provide training and resources in case of an emergency whether it be the result of a terrorist attack or a natural disaster, Diamond said. Due to the slow response to the Hurricane Katrina in the Gulf Coast, states across the nation are beginning to adopt a similar philosophy.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.keepmecurrent.com/Community/story.cfm?storyID=16034>

35. MI: Trash crossing border needs better screening (Battle Creek Enquirer Editorial, 9 Mar 2006)

Just last week, motorists on I-275 in Wayne County found themselves stuck in traffic as a truck carrying Canadian trash spilled sewage, forcing the shutdown of an overpass for several hours. We should be grateful it was only sewage. According to the inspector general of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the steady stream of trucks bringing trash from Canada into Michigan faces a hit-and-miss inspection process that leaves our state vulnerable to not only hazardous waste but deadly terrorist attacks as well. In a report completed in January but not released until the last week of February, Homeland Security's inspector general found that ports in both Detroit and Port Huron had varied procedures for inspections of trucks bringing trash into the United States. The inspector general found that inspections differed greatly as to which vehicles were selected and how cargo was inspected. The report also pointed out that Michigan lacked a centralized examination station for the trash. The inspector general's report recommends

that the federal government develop minimum requirements for selecting and inspecting trucks carrying Canadian trash, as well as conduct a risk analysis of the whole process.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?N137345CC>

36. NJ: Newark Airport's Security Chief Steps Down (AP, 10 Mar 2006)

NEWARK There's been a security shakeup at the top at Newark Liberty International Airport. The airport's federal security director, Marcus Arroyo, cleared out his office following a meeting with the Transportation Security Administration's Eastern area director yesterday. TSA officials said Arroyo was told either to retire or be reassigned. The former Navy Seal took over the job shortly after the 9/11 attacks. Newark was one of the airports out of which the hijackers flew. The airport has been troubled during his term with security breakdowns and high staff turnovers.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://wcbstv.com/topstories/local_story_069093313.html

37. NY: Port Of New York And New Jersey Sets Cargo Record For 2005; Governor Corzine, Port Authority Announce New Port Security Initiatives (7 Mar 2006)

International cargo volumes in the Port of New York and New Jersey hit record levels in 2005, New Jersey Governor Jon S. Corzine, Port Authority Chairman Anthony R. Coscia and Port Authority Vice Chairman Charles A. Gargano said today as they revealed new port security initiatives, including a public-private task force and a demonstration of technology to enhance security at the East Coast's largest seaport.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?F206215CC>

38. NY: Tribal police get federal grant to fight cross-border smuggling (WCAX, 13 Mar 2006)

AKWESASNE, N.Y. The Saint Regis Mohawk tribe sits on one of the busiest smuggling locations on the U-S-Canada border. Now the tribe's police department is getting a federal grant to fight that traffic. The U-S Bureau of Indian Affairs is giving the tribe 263-thousand dollars to prevent drug smuggling.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wcax.com/Global/story.asp?S=4621897&nav=4QcS>

39. NY: Judge Issues Secret Ruling in Case of 2 at Mosque (New York Times, 11 Mar 2006)

A federal judge issued a highly unusual classified ruling yesterday, denying a motion for dismissal of a case against two leaders of an Albany mosque who are accused of laundering money in a federal terrorism sting operation. Because the ruling was classified, the defense lawyers were barred from reading why the judge decided that way. The defense lawyers had asked the judge to dismiss the case, saying that they believed the government's evidence came from wiretaps obtained without a warrant by the National Security Agency.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/03/11/national/11terror.html?th&emc=th>

40. OK: Response Vehicles Given To 6 Oklahoma Cities (AP, 9 Mar 2006)

OKLAHOMA CITY - Five hazardous materials response vehicles were given to six Oklahoma cities Thursday. The cities of Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Lawton and Claremore received one vehicle while another will be shared by the cities of Moore and Norman. The vehicles are 42-feet long and cost nearly \$446,000 each and each will carry about \$300,000 in equipment. They are self-powered and have a command center and satellite system.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.kotv.com/main/home/stories.asp?whichpage=1&id=100276>

41. WA: Passengers removed from plane after air marshal finds bullet (AP, 13 Mar 2006)

SEATTLE — Passengers were taken off an Alaska Airlines plane Sunday after a federal air marshal found a bullet in the cabin, the airline said. Airline spokeswoman Caroline Boren said Transportation Security Administration agents found no gun or any other items of concern during a subsequent search of the San Francisco-bound aircraft. TSA agents rescreened passengers of Flight 384, which had been scheduled to depart Seattle-Tacoma International Airport at 3:15 p.m. The plane took off at 5:43 p.m., Boren said. It was not immediately clear how the bullet got onto the plane.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.courttv.com/news/2006/0313/alaska_airlines_ap.html

KEY PEOPLE

42. Statement by Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff on the Creation of a Center for Faith-based and Community Initiatives (DHS Office of the Press Secretary, 8 Mar 2006)

President Bush has signed an Executive Order that directs the Department of Homeland Security to establish a Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives to advance our overall mission and strengthen the department's preparedness efforts. This Center will be a part of the Preparedness Directorate and it will help to advance several core elements of the department's mission, in particular building a culture of preparedness in every community across America.

As directed by the President, the Center will conduct a department-wide audit to identify barriers to faith-based and other community organizations' participation in our programs and activities, and propose ways to remove these barriers and to better integrate the community into our efforts. As a result, the department will more effectively channel the unique resources and capabilities of faith-based and other community organizations in times of crisis, and on an ongoing basis, in preparing for catastrophes of all types.

Faith-based and community organizations played an instrumental role in response to Hurricane Katrina and they continue to be an essential partner in helping victims in the Gulf States region rebuild their lives and communities. I commend their service and look

forward to building upon several long-standing relationships, as well as forging new ones, through the department's new Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

43. MI: Crowning achievement: Tamera Miller once walked the Miss Muskegon runway. Now she watches over America's runways (Muskegon Chronicle, 9 Mar 2006)

Tamara Louise Miller has traveled a long road, from infancy in a Korean orphanage to growing up in Muskegon Heights to her current position as one of seven people running the agency charged with safeguarding the nation's transportation system against terrorism. One of her first steps was taken in an evening gown while wearing a tiara. Miller, who grew up in Muskegon Heights and graduated in 1978 as salutatorian from Muskegon Catholic Central High School, recently was named special counselor and deputy director of the Transportation Security Administration.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?R316215CC>

44. NJ: TSA Names Mark O. Hatfield, Jr. as Acting Federal Security Director at Newark Liberty International Airport (PRNewswire, 9 Mar 2006)

WASHINGTON - Mark O. Hatfield, Jr., the Deputy Federal Security Director at Newark Liberty International Airport, has been named the airport's Acting Federal Security Director (FSD), the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) announced today. Hatfield replaces Marcus Arroyo, the FSD at Newark Liberty since 2002. Arroyo announced today that he is considering other employment options, including one within TSA. "Mark's exemplary management style and commitment to security will ensure top-notch leadership for TSA at Newark. His dedication and proven track record as a skilled manager will facilitate a seamless continuation of operations for the workforce and the traveling public," said Maggie Rhodes, Eastern Area Director for TSA.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/060309/dcth054.html?.v=44>

45. NY: A Stronger Health Department Rises From 9/11 Attacks - But Some Say Next Crisis Will Find City Unready (Washington Post, 9 Mar 2006)

Nitin Natarajan was attending a meeting of emergency medical officials in Albany, N.Y., when the room suddenly went quiet. On a hotel TV screen, a plane was hurtling into the World Trade Center, detonating a monstrous cloud of debris. Natarajan was only 25, but he already was in charge of regulating EMS training throughout the Hudson Valley. This was his stuff. The paramedic jumped in his car and headed south. By the evening of Sept. 11, 2001, he was with a federal medical team at Ground Zero. "It was surreal, almost. Being a New York-based team, we all lost friends," he recalled. Now Natarajan is helping the District prepare for the next attack. Since last summer, he has been the city's first bioterrorism coordinator, part of a greatly expanded city Health Department focused on natural and man-made disasters.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?S147425CC>

GANG ACTIVITY

46. Operation Community Shield (KeloLand.com, 14 Mar 2006)

Federal agents across the US just completed a nationwide sweep for gang members, arresting more than 2350 illegal immigrants. It's part of an effort called "Operation Community Shield," and some were found in South Dakota. MS-13 is the shortened name for members of "Mara Salvatrucha." Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents say they're one of the most aggressive gangs out there. "They're known for all types of violent crimes, illegal activity, how ever they can make money, that's their goal of course," Agent Dave Johnson said. MS-13 is just one of the many gangs whose members have found their way to the United States illegally. And that's how agents are able to arrest them. In the latest round of arrests as part of "Operation Community Shield," agents arrested five suspected illegal gang members in the Sioux Falls area.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.keloland.com/NewsDetail2817.cfm?Id=0,46715>

47. The ABCs of Fighting MS-13 (Washington Post, by George Gascon, assistant chief and director of the Los Angeles Police Department's office of operations, 12 Mar 2006)

As thugs operating close to the nation's capital have adopted the flag of the MS-13 street gang, politics has sometimes trumped rational discourse about the danger that this gang and others represent. Although these MS-13 gangs are a threat to public safety, to fight back effectively we need to grasp the nature of gang violence and its implications for national security. *Mara Salvatruchas* (MS), which means "Salvadorian gang," began to appear in Los Angeles in the 1980s as immigrants from war-torn El Salvador settled around the central city. Initially, these MS-13 gangs - the "13" is thought to come from the 13th letter of the alphabet, "m" as in *mara* - formed to protect new immigrants from the older gangs that controlled neighborhoods. However, as the new gangs proliferated, so did the violence, leading to anti-gang efforts at the federal and local level and to the deportation of many young men. These deportations have had unforeseen and regrettable consequences

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?S1C1269CC>

48. CA: Man to stand trial for killing LA County anti-gang deputy (AP, 8 Mar 2006)

Norwalk, Calif. - A man who allegedly shot a sheriff's deputy in the face as the deputy was investigating a killing he was implicated in was ordered Wednesday to stand trial for murder. Norwalk Superior Court Judge Philip Hickok ruled there was enough evidence to put Jose L. Orozco, 28, on trial. He is charged with murder with a special allegation of murder of a peace officer, lying in wait and murder to avoid arrest. Prosecutors have not decided whether to seek the death penalty.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2006/03/08/state/n210453S15.DTL>

49. CA: Vagos motorcycle club targeted in Southern California crime sweep (AP, 9 Mar 2006)

RANCHO CUCAMONGA, Calif. - Hundreds of law enforcement officers targeted the Vagos motorcycle club Thursday in a Southern California sweep that netted 25 arrests of leaders and associates of what officials labeled an outlaw gang. "The Vagos are a ruthless criminal biker gang that virtually held our communities hostage" by dealing in "guns, drugs and death," said John Torres, a special agent in charge with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. "We're going to continue to fight this war on our local terrorists," San Bernardino County District Attorney Michael A. Ramos said at a news conference. "Operation 22 Green," as it was called, targeted Vagos associates in five Southern California counties. It involved 700 ATF and local police and sheriff's departments.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.mercurynews.com/mlid/mercurynews/news/breaking_news/14058076.htm

50. MD: County raises bar in fight against gangs - Federal funding for investigators comes as MS-13 thrives, Bloods and Crips reportedly emerge in county (Gazette, 9 Mar 2006)

Prince George's County police and prosecutors are working to expand their gang-battling resources, as Latino gangs continue to flourish in the region and the infamous Bloods and the Crips are reportedly making inroads into the county. Part of the expansion will come from a \$260,000 congressional appropriation, presented to the state's attorney Monday by U.S. Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-Dist. 5) of Mechanicsville, which will go toward hiring a bilingual gang investigator.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.gazette.net/stories/030906/princou180650_31966.shtml

51. NJ: No gang crisis seen in Long Branch - Police Statistics Bear Out That Conclusion (Asbury Park Press, 9 Mar 2006)

LONG BRANCH - The city displays none of the telltale signs of a community in the midst of a youth gang crisis, said a state expert on juvenile gangs. In an appearance sponsored by the Police Department and the housing authority, Lt. Edwin Torres, supervisor of the Gang Management Unit for the state Juvenile Justice Commission, said he made that determination based on the fact that he is not hearing about drive-by shootings, riots or repeated assaults. "This is definitely not a community in crisis," he said. "It doesn't jump up in the radar as super gangster world. I love to come to a community that I marvel at (because) it is so pro-active."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.app.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060309/NEWS01/603090445/1004>

52. NJ: Give the cities the anti-gang weapons they need (The Times Editorial, 9 Mar 2006)

Trenton is afflicted by gang violence. No one is in denial about that any longer. New Jersey's other cities, and even its suburbs and rural areas, are similarly infected. Existing laws and procedures aren't adequate to cope fully with the problem. That's why the mayors and police officials of the state are urging the Legislature to hold hearings on a package of bills that would help them fight the gangs. Trenton Mayor Douglas H. Palmer, president of the New Jersey Conference of Mayors, and Joseph Santiago, Trenton's police

director, are among the leaders in the campaign. The measures, some patterned after successful efforts in other cities, would allow municipalities to deal quickly and effectively with gun crimes and get accused violators off the streets through establishment of special gun courts; give statutory underpinning to anti-loitering ordinances such as Trenton's, and give police full authority to enforce them; toughen the penalties for possession of assault firearms and giving a gun to a minor, and require elementary schools to provide gang-prevention education.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?E257155CC>

53. NY: MS-13 Gangbanger Arrested for Murder (By Jim Kouri, AXcess News, 8 Mar 2006)

New York - A man wanted by authorities in El Salvador for murder is behind bars following his arrest by special agents with Immigration and Custom Enforcement's Newark, NJ Fugitive Operations Team. Newark Detention and Removal officers arrested 25-year-old Rene Hugo Mejia Juarez in a pre-dawn operation. Mejia was located following a brief but intensive investigation. When ICE officers knocked on the door of the house Mejia was in, he attempted to flee through a side entrance but was apprehended. The Midland Park Police Department and the United States Marshals Service assisted in the operation. Mejia is the subject of an Interpol warrant for a murder committed in El Salvador. "Apprehending and removing violent alien gang members from the United States is a priority for ICE," said Field Office Director Raymond Simonse. "In the last 11 months ICE has arrested more than 1,800 gang members, including 805 MS-13. The message is loud and clear: Those who were once the hunters are now the hunted."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.axcessnews.com/modules/wfsection/article.php?articleid=8550>

54. NC: Duplin targets stopping youth gangs (Goldsboro News-Argus, 9 Mar 2006)

KENANSVILLE - Duplin County lawmen say gangs are trying to recruit young people across the county and the Sheriff's Office has applied for a \$100,000 state grant to attack the problem. Capt. Timmy Jones said investigators have seen signs of gang activity at several schools. Gang graffiti has been seen scrawled on restroom walls and in some students' notebooks, he said. Students have been seen wearing clothing suggestive of gang membership.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?G467255CC>

55. NY: Opening statements expected in New York's Mafia cops case (AP, 13 Mar 2006)

NEW YORK - It was the case that stunned law enforcement officials citywide, leaving them to ponder whether two elite NYPD detectives were merely mob hit men with gold shields. "Mafia cops" Louis Eppolito and Stephen Caracappa were hired by a mob underboss, who put them on the payroll for \$4,000 a month and arranged their involvement in eight murders, authorities said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?Y68031CCC>

56. SC: Officers meet in Greenville to discuss gangs (AP, 14 Mar 2006)

GREENVILLE, S.C. - Law enforcement officers met here to discuss gangs and gang-related crimes. The three-day conference, put on by the Regional Organized Crime Information Center, started Monday and will allow agencies to exchange information and policies for coping with gangs. Greenville Sheriff Steve Loftis says gangs have infiltrated even the smallest communities. He says gang membership crosses socioeconomic and racial lines. South Carolina's new U.S. attorney says the gang problem is in urban and rural communities - thanks in part to major interstates that crisscross the state connecting larger cities such as Atlanta and Charlotte, N.C.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.thestate.com/mld/thestate/news/local/14097107.htm>

57. Canada: Nasty boys move north (Toronto Star, 12 Mar 2006)

The two brothers, ages 19 and 23, were arrested in a rooming house on Lavender Rd. Toronto police believed the pair were members of the dreaded Hispanic gang called Mara Salvatrucha, or MS-13, and had come north three months ago to hide out here. In the end, police couldn't find anything linking the two young men to the gang, whose activities have become increasingly worrisome in the United States and Central America. But the arrest last month is an indication of police concern about MS-13 sinking its teeth into Canada.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?V27032CCC>

58. Bermuda: \$350,000 anti-gang plan is in the works (The Royal Gazette, 9 Mar 2006)

Government will spend \$350,000 on an anti-gang action plan this year after blaming them for the rise in street robberies. Labour, Home Affairs and Public Safety Minister Randy Horton said US gang expert DeLacy Davis – in Bermuda this week to speak on the problem at the multi-addiction conference – will help formulate a plan. The New Jersey cop has already met with Government as well as gang leaders. Mr. Horton said: “We believe the increase in gang activity has contributed to the increase in violent crime in our community.” He said Mr. Davis is a 21-year veteran of East Orange County Police, a founder member of Black Cops Against Police Brutality and an acknowledged expert on youth and gang behaviour. “The entire community recoils at recognition of the fact that gangs do exist in Bermuda, many often exhibit the same kinds of negative behaviour manifested by their counterparts in the US and elsewhere.”

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?M277625CC>

NARCO TRAFFICKING

59. AL: More than \$1 Million of Cocaine Seized in Alabama (NY Jewish Times, 14 Mar 2006)

FAIRHOPE, Alabama - A shipment of cocaine bound for the streets of Alabama with a wholesale value of more than \$330,000 and a street value of more than \$1 million was seized by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents. ICE special agents teamed up with inspectors of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) as well as other agencies to arrest six people in the Point Clear area of Fairhope, Alabama, as they attempted to smuggle 36.8 pounds of cocaine into the country via a 40-foot sailboat. CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://nyjtimes.com/Stories/2006/1MilOfCocaineSeizedInAlabama.htm>

60. CO: Co. Springs Man Busted With 26 Pounds Of Cocaine (AP, 12 Mar 2006) – Another routine traffic stop!

EATON, Ohio A Colorado Springs man has been arrested in Preble County, Ohio after officers found more than one million dollars worth of cocaine in his car. Forty-one-year-old Arturo Hernandez was stopped Thursday for a traffic violation on Interstate 70.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://cbs4denver.com/topstories/local_story_071102324.html

61. CT: Waterbury car wash owner facing drug and weapons charges (AP, 12 Mar 2006)

WATERBURY, Conn. - A well-known Waterbury businessman faces drug and gun charges, accused of repeatedly selling cocaine to a customer at his eponymous car wash. Peter Ciarlo, 51, of Middlebury, was arrested last month on charges of selling cocaine to the man, leaving the drugs on a bathroom shelf at Ciarlo's Car Emporium for the customer to pick up when he stopped by for car washes. The Republican-American of Waterbury reported Sunday that the customer, who paid \$500 for each of the half-ounce containers of cocaine, turned out to be an confidential police informant.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?D54E25BCC>

62. CT: At Ernie's: Cocaine-dealing couple busted (The Darien Times, 9 Mar 2006)

A Darien couple was arrested this weekend for selling cocaine and operating a drug factory, among other drug-related charges, after a lengthy investigation by the Darien Police Department Detective Bureau. Junius Clark, 40, of Nearwater Lane was initially charged with three counts each of possession of cocaine, possession of cocaine with intent to sell and sale of cocaine. Police obtained an arrest warrant after undercover officers bought cocaine from Clark while he was bartending at Ernie's at 25 Tokeneke Road, Sgt. Ray Osborne said. Additional charges, including two counts of possession of cocaine, sale of cocaine, possession of cocaine with intent to sell, possession of marijuana, operating a drug factory and possession of drug paraphernalia, were tacked on when a search warrant for the bar and Clark's house was executed around 1:40 a.m., Sunday, March 5. That search turned up more on his person and at his home, Osborne said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.acorn-online.com/news/publish/article_5183.shtml

63. FL: Cops arrest 4 in drug probe (Orlanda Sentinel, 12 Mar 2006)

BREVARD COUNTY - Police arrested four people and seized drugs valued at more than \$50,000 Friday as part of an 18-month investigation into cocaine trafficking in Brevard County. The Brevard County Sheriff's Office Special Investigations Unit, in conjunction with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, targeted a group they said is responsible for supplying cocaine and marijuana in the county. Officials moved in with a search warrant Friday to a home in Merritt Island, after undercover agents said they received a kilogram of cocaine from the suspects. Officers also said they found nine pounds of marijuana in the home.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?H35E25BCC>

64. GA: Two additional men arrested in Harris drug bust (Ledger-Enquirer, 9 Mar 2006)

The Metro Narcotics Task Force has arrested two more suspects in connection with the \$5.5 million cocaine seizure in Harris County, bringing the count to seven. Antonio Pierre Reese, 29, of 754 Wright Drive, Columbus, turned himself in to the Task Force on Feb. 24 after his lawyer called to arranged the arrest, Special Agent in Charge Rick Stinson said. Reese is charged with conspiracy to traffick in cocaine and violation of parole. He is being held without bond in the Muscogee County Jail. Shawn Maurice Bunkley, 35, of Geneva, was arrested on March 2 in the 4800 block of Kolb Avenue. Stinson said the Task Force had received an anonymous tip directing authorities to Bunkley's whereabouts. Bunkley was released on bond Tuesday from the Muscogee County Jail.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/mld/ledgerenquirer/news/local/14051656.htm>

65. IL: Bloomington police make big coke bust (Pantagraph, 9 Mar 2006)

BLOOMINGTON - Bloomington police arrested six people and seized more than a pound of cocaine, the largest amount ever confiscated by the department, in a parking lot Tuesday night on the city's south side. The cocaine, valued about \$51,000, and about \$4,000 in cash were taken in a bust about 6 p.m. in a restaurant parking lot at the intersection of South Main Street and Hamilton Road, police said. Bloomington police spokesman Duane Moss said the amount of cocaine recovered Tuesday was slightly more than the previous record amount, which was confiscated during a search about three years ago.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.pantagraph.com/articles/2006/03/09/news/108578.txt>

66. IN: Drug probe nets 4 arrests - Cocaine confiscated in Kendallville raid (The Journal Gazette, 9 Mar 2006)

Four people were arrested in Kendallville late Tuesday as part of a drug task force investigation. Christopher Burchett, 27, of the 600 block of Northwood Court in Kendallville, was arrested at his home about 11 p.m. Tuesday and charged with dealing cocaine, Kendallville police said. He was being held at the Noble County Jail on Wednesday in lieu of \$50,000 bond. Three Kendallville women, two of whom are 20 and one of whom is 19, were also arrested on misdemeanor charges and each was released

from the Noble County Jail on Wednesday morning after posting \$3,500 bail. Police officers with the Indiana Multi-Agency Group Effort Task Force, known as IMAGE, had been investigating Burchett and found a "substantial quantity" of cocaine and crack cocaine at the home Tuesday along with a small amount of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fortwayne.com/mld/journalgazette/14055676.htm>

67. KY: Six indicted on crack cocaine charges (Kentucky Post, 9 Mar 2006)

Six Covington residents were indicted Wednesday by a federal grand jury for conspiring to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine. They are among 10 people indicted in drug cases and one indicted in an immigration case by the U.S. District Court grand jury meeting in Covington. The indictment against the Covington residents, which followed an FBI investigation, charges Justin Englemon, 25, with heading a conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine and with distributing crack cocaine to minors, being a felon in possession of a handgun and possession of a firearm "in furtherance" of drug trafficking.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://news.kypost.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060309/NEWS02/603090385/1014>

68. MA: Former Fitchburg Man Pleads Guilty to Distributing Crack Cocaine (PRNewswire, 9 Mar 2006)

WORCESTER, Mass. - A former Fitchburg man pleaded guilty yesterday in federal court to federal drug charges. United States Attorney Michael J. Sullivan; John J. Conte, Worcester County District Attorney; June W. Stansbury, Special Agent In Charge of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in New England; and Edward F. Cronin, Chief of the Fitchburg Police Department, announced that HERIBERTO PEREZ, a/k/a "Momo," age 26, formerly of Fitchburg, Massachusetts, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge F. Dennis Saylor, IV to an Indictment charging him with three counts of distribution of cocaine base. Cocaine base is more commonly known as "crack" cocaine.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?Y387225CC>

69. OH: Traffic stop finds \$800K in cocaine (Cincinnati Post, 9 Mar 2006)

Police found \$800,000 worth of cocaine in the car of a Westwood man who was pulled over in downtown Cincinnati Tuesday afternoon. Agents from the Regional Narcotics Unit and Cincinnati Police officers arrested Vernon Powell, 25, at 3:50 p.m. near the intersection of Sixth and Race streets. While searching Powell, authorities said they found about 3½ ounces of cocaine and a loaded .40-caliber semi-automatic pistol.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://news.cincypost.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060309/NEWS01/603090369>

70. OR: Drug raids reveal cocaine re-emerging on the scene (The Oregonian, 9 Mar 2006)

FOREST GROVE - After a series of drug raids since the first of the year, Forest Grove police Capt. Mike Arnold has come to a disturbing conclusion: Cocaine is braced to make a comeback. Methamphetamine has generally been addicts' drug of choice in recent

years, said Arnold, who leads the investigation of drug crimes in Forest Grove. That's changed. Prompted by lawmakers, retailers have moved medicine containing meth's chief component - pseudoephedrine - behind the counter. "You don't see near as many of the mobile meth labs as we have in years past," Arnold said. "We may see that happen again. Most of the meth we're dealing with now is strictly imported meth. Folks are also bringing in cocaine. What we're seeing now is that cocaine is re-emerging."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?W2A7635CC>

71. WI: Authorities say drug ring busted in Milwaukee (AP, 9 Mar 2006)

MILWAUKEE - A drug ring that distributed large amounts of cocaine and marijuana each week and allowed its fugitive leader to spend on everything from a \$100,000 watch to a gold-plated hearse for his mother's funeral has been broken up, authorities said.

Kenyounta Harvester, 30, who goes by the alias "Kenny Fly," has avoided capture after eight members of his operation were arrested late last week. According to the federal criminal complaint, Harvester used proceeds from his operation to buy a Brookfield home, expensive jewelry, property in Atlanta, trips to this year's Super Bowl and NBA All-Star Game, and an \$80,000 funeral for his mother. One informant said there was an all-night "money counting party" where Harvester and others handled \$1 million in cash.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.duluthsuperior.com/mld/duluthsuperior/14056884.htm>

72. Columbia: Navy nabs sub allegedly used to transport tons of cocaine (The Salt Lake Tribune, 12 Mar 2006)

BOGOTA - The Colombian navy has seized a 60-foot long submarine that likely was used to haul tons of cocaine out to sea for shipment to the United States, officials say. No drugs were found when the fiberglass submarine was discovered Thursday about 30 miles from the Pacific Coast port of Buenaventura, but three people were arrested and two speedboats seized, said Adm. Guillermo Barrera, the navy's chief of operations. Barrera said the submarine carried cocaine to speedboats in the Pacific Ocean for transportation to Central America and on to the United States.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.sltrib.com/nationworld/ci_3594276

73. Peru: Coca-laced bread proposed for kids – Coca High in Protein (Chicago Tribune, 9 Mar 2006)

LIMA, PERU - A Peruvian presidential candidate is offering an unorthodox proposal for child nutrition: pass out bread laced with coca, the raw material for cocaine. Former Lt. Col. Ollanta Humala, running second in the polls, supports feeding a small amount of coca to schoolchildren as a way to improve the overall diet, Humala spokesman Daniel Abugattas said Wednesday.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?Z5B7215CC>

74. Peru police seize 234 kg of pure cocaine in Lima (Xinhuanet, 12 Mar 2006)

LIMA - The Peru National Police anti-narcotics squad have seized 234 kg of very pure cocaine in Lima, Peru's National Police said on Sunday. The haul was seized in a house in southern Lima, where two people were arrested. Police also said they had recently seized cocaine hidden in a ship carrying sardines due to be exported to Panama from the port of Salaverry in La Libertad Department, some 550 km north of Lima.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2006-03/13/content_4296530.htm

75. Afghans Begin Poppy-Eradication Program (AP, 08 Mar 2006)

Driving tractors through fields of poppy plants, Afghan counternarcotics agents started a major opium eradication campaign Wednesday in the heartland of the world's largest producer of illicit drugs. The effort comes amid warnings of another bumper crop that would feed millions of heroin addicts in Asia and the West and endanger Afghanistan's emerging democracy. Some 1,000 heavily armed police and soldiers guarded the drug agents because Taliban insurgents have threatened to defend the poppy farms, said provincial administrator Ghulam Muhiddin.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtop.com/?nid=385&sid=719614&sidelines=1>

CYBERTHREAT & THEFT

76. PIN Scandal "Worst Hack Ever;" Citibank Only The Start (TechWeb News, 9 Mar 2006, contributed by Rick Forno)

The unfolding debit card scam that rocked Citibank this week is far from over, an analyst said Thursday as she called this first-time-ever mass theft of PINs "the worst consumer scam to date." Wednesday, Citibank confirmed that an ongoing fraud had forced it to reissue debit cards and block PIN-based transactions for users in Canada, Russia, and the U.K. But Citibank is only the tip of the iceberg, said Avivah Litan, a Gartner research vice president. The scam - and scandal - has hit national banks like Bank of America, Wells Fargo, and Washington Mutual, as well as smaller banks, including ones in Oregon, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, all of which have re-issued debit cards in recent weeks.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://techweb.com/wire/181502468>

77. US court OKs computer searches for child porn (Reuters, 9 Mar 2006)

SAN FRANCISCO - Police may search computer hard drives for child pornography if their owners subscribe to Web sites selling the images, a U.S. appeals court ruled on Thursday. There is a "fair probability" customers of child pornography Web sites receive or download the illegal images, opening the door for police searches, according to the ruling by the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. The ruling affirmed a lower court's decision supporting an affidavit by the Federal Bureau of Investigation for its probe of Lolitagurls.com Web site and subscriber Micah Gourde.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?V526345CC>

78. IRS Notices More Identity Theft Attempts (AP, 14 Mar 2006)

WASHINGTON - The Internal Revenue Service, noting an escalation in identity theft scams, is raising alarms about e-mails designed to dupe taxpayers into revealing personal financial information. IRS and Treasury Department officials have noticed an increase this winter in the frequency and sophistication of "phishing" schemes that use the tax agency's logo to lure victims. "There does seem to be a proliferation of them this filing season," Richard Morgante, commissioner of the IRS wage and investment division, said Monday. "We have more thieves trying to take advantage of the filing season than we've seen in the past."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2006/03/14/ap/politics/mainD8GB0S903.shtml>

TECHNOLOGY

79. Linked hospital record systems created (UPI, 9 Mar 2006)

RALEIGH, N.C. - North Carolina has created an electronic records system linking 113 hospitals in the state which can search for warning signs of infectious disease outbreaks. The system, already in operation in 72 hospitals, is expected to become totally operational within a few weeks, the Wall Street Journal reported Thursday. The system will be programmed to electronically monitor symptoms reported by emergency room doctors at the hospitals. The partial system recently aided state officials in determining an illness at a college sorority house was a food-borne infection rather than a stomach virus. A similar nationwide system - called BioSense - is being developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and is expected to link about 250 hospitals in more than 30 cities by the end of this year, the Journal said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.upi.com/NewsTrack/view.php?StoryID=20060309-111145-3562r>

80. Researchers Convinced Satellites Are Helpful In Tracking Epidemics (SPX, 14 Mar 2006)

Basel, Switzerland - The amount of data acquired by satellites is increasing at an exponential rate, and researchers are learning about the value of this data in fighting epidemic outbreaks as a result of the ESA's Epidemio project. "I was negative about the role satellites could play in addressing epidemics, but now I am positive," Penelope Vernatsou of the Swiss Tropical Institute in Switzerland said. The ESA-funded Epidemio project was developed in January 2004 to illustrate the benefits of remote-sensing data for studying, monitoring and predicting epidemic outbreaks.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?Q56021CCC>

81. Lockheed gets Sentinel contract (FCW, 10 Mar 2006)

The FBI has awarded Lockheed Martin the contract to build Sentinel, the bureau's new comprehensive case management system, according to a published report. Lockheed beat Northrop Grumman, the other competitor for the project, after a six-month review process, according to a report Friday published on the Wall Street Journal's Web site. The FBI, in a written statement, said the agency had completed vendor evaluations and that

the agency is currently in negotiations with one of the vendors and has notified the other that "their proposal was not within the competitive range."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fcw.com/article92579-03-10-06-Web>

82. Aerostar UAV In Police Role (SPX, 14 Mar 2006)

Tel Aviv, Israel - Aeronautics Defense Systems and the Israel Highway Police have employed the Company's Aerostar UAV in a successful experiment to detect and arrest traffic offenders on the highways of Southern Israel. A police patrol pilot joined the Aeronautics Operating Team inside the Company's Ground Control Station, while five patrol cars, each equipped with Aeronautics Remote Video Terminals, followed the live video transmissions from the Aerostar. A number of drivers were stopped and, according to a Police spokesman, were amazed when shown their own traffic violations, recorded from above on video.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

[http://www.spacewar.com/reports/Aerostar UAV In Police Role.html](http://www.spacewar.com/reports/Aerostar_UAV_In_Police_Role.html)

RESOURCES

83. Pioneer Services to Participate in ICFE Certified Identity Theft Risk Management Specialist Program (PRNewswire, 9 Mar 2006)

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - In response to more than 41 million cases of credit and identity theft, the Institute of Consumer Financial Education (ICFE) has developed the "ICFE Certified Identity Theft Risk Management Specialist" educational and certification program. Pioneer Services Representatives will be taking part in the training so they can assist military families in protecting themselves from this growing crime. "Both of our organizations are committed to enhancing financial education and supporting fiscal fitness," said Paul Richard, Registered Financial Consultant (RFC) and executive director of the ICFE. "We applaud the support of Pioneer Services, and based on their commitment in enrolling more than 300 of their associates in the ICFE Certified Credit Report Reviewer program, I am confident this additional program will assist them in helping thousands of military families." The goal of the certification program is to comprehensively prepare and equip "specialists" with the knowledge and skills necessary to help consumers minimize their present risk of credit and identity theft.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?O5C7125CC>

FULL REPORTS

84. U.S., Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay Set Effort on Financial Crimes - Trade transparency Units will focus on South America's tri-border area (Dept. of State, 14 Mar 2006)

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency is teaming up with the governments of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay to create new trade transparency units to combat trade-based money laundering and other financial crimes in those nations and in the shared tri-border area.

In a press release issued March 13, ICE - which is a division of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security - explained that the trade transparency units "will be able to detect and investigate anomalies in international commerce that may be indicative of trade-based money laundering or other criminal activities." ICE added that the new units in Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay "will investigate and prosecute crimes related to trade-based money laundering," while also targeting alternative remittance systems, terrorist financing, contraband smuggling, tax evasion and other crimes.

"The new units will not only help authorities in these nations combat domestic financial crimes, but will also enhance the ability of the United States to target money-laundering rings that operate both in South America and the United States," said ICE.

The shared tri-border area linking the three South American countries will be a particular focus of the new units because it is believed to be "a source of fundraising for radical Islamic groups, including Hezbollah and Hamas," ICE said. "The tri-border area is also believed to be South America's busiest contraband and smuggling center, where billions of dollars annually are generated from arms trafficking, drug smuggling, counterfeiting, intellectual property-rights violations, and other crimes."

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

85. ICE Arrests 375 Gang Members and Associates in Two-Week Enforcement Action (ICE Public Affairs, 10 Mar 2006)

During a two-week enforcement action that culminated yesterday, federal agents from the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrested 375 gang members and associates in 23 states in a joint effort with law enforcement agencies nationwide.

The arrests are the latest under the auspices of "Operation Community Shield," a comprehensive initiative launched by ICE roughly one year ago to disrupt and dismantle transnational, violent street gangs. Operation Community Shield represents the first time the federal government has used immigration and customs authorities in a combined, national campaign against criminal street gangs in the United States.

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff announced the results at a press conference today with ICE Assistant Secretary Julie Myers; Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Emilio Gonzalez; Assistant Director of Field Operations at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Michael Bouchard, First Assistant Chief of the Dallas Police Department David O'Neal Brown, and Deputy Assistant Director of the FBI's Criminal Investigative Division Deborah Pierce.

In the past year, ICE has conducted several targeted enforcement actions under Operation Community Shield, including the latest one. In total, these efforts have resulted in the arrest of 2,388 members of 239 different gangs and the seizure of 117 firearms. Fifty-one

of those arrested were gang leaders. Roughly 922 of those arrested were from the street gang Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13). Those arrested under Operation Community Shield are prosecuted criminally or removed from the United States through immigration proceedings. To date, 533 have been charged criminally, while 1,855 have been hit with administrative immigration charges.

In the latest enforcement action that began on Feb. 24, 2006, ICE teamed up with its law enforcement partners to arrest large numbers of gang members in Dallas (44), San Diego (41), Washington, D.C. (22), Miami (22), and Raleigh, N.C. (19). Gang members were also arrested in locations such as Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Des Moines, Iowa; and Springfield, Missouri. Those arrested included members of MS-13, Surenos, 18th Street Gang, Latin Kings, Bloods, Crips, Armenian Power, Street Thug Criminals, Brown Pride, Asian Dragon Family, Avenue Assassins, Spanish Gangster Disciples, Big Time Killers and Hermanos Pistoleros Latinos.

More than 260 of the 375 individuals arrested in the latest action have past criminal records, most of them violent. ICE agents arrested 73 of the individuals on new criminal charges ranging from drug and firearms violations to charges of re-entering the country after deportation. The rest have been accused of administrative immigration violations and placed into deportation proceedings. Some of those arrested include:

- Convicted murderer & gang member whose son is charged with shooting an ICE agent - On March 3, ICE agents in South Texas arrested Juan Eladio Villareal-Saenza, a convicted murderer and member of the gang, Hermanos Pistoleros Latinos, on criminal charges of re-entry after deportation. The same day, ICE agents and U.S. Marshals deputies arrested his son, Leobardo Villareal, who was wanted on federal charges of shooting ICE agent Maria Ochoa in May 2005; escaping from federal custody; and federal drug violations. After his first arrest for the attempted murder of an ICE agent, Leobardo Villareal escaped in Sept. 2005 from the McAllen Medical Center, where he allegedly carjacked a mother and her children to flee. He was later featured on "America's Most Wanted."

- Gang member who robbed state representative & beat individual in the head with bat – On Feb. 28, ICE agents worked with the Fuquay-Varina, N.C. Police Department to arrest Jose Carlos Peralta-Morales, a Surenos gang member who was observed that day beating an individual in the head with an aluminum baseball bat in a Wal-Mart store. ICE interviews of the suspect revealed that he had previously been deported in May 2005 and had been convicted of robbery / accessory after the fact in connection with an incident in which gang members broke into and robbed the house of a North Carolina state representative. Peralta-Morales faces federal criminal prosecution.

"The lawlessness that these violent gangs propagate presents a grave threat to public safety," said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. "We are meeting their victimization of the innocent with hard-hitting enforcement actions that lead to criminal prosecutions and deportations. Operation Community Shield embodies the power behind

law enforcement partnerships, at all levels, to share information and combat these intolerable criminal elements.”

“Transnational street gangs pose a growing public safety threat to urban and rural communities throughout the United States. Their violence, sophistication, and scope have reached intolerable levels,” said ICE Assistant Secretary Myers. “Operation Community Shield demonstrates how ICE is working with its law enforcement partners and leveraging its broad authorities to disrupt these criminal organizations on a national scale.”

Partnerships with law enforcement / Impact on violent crime

Law enforcement partnerships at the local level are critical to the success of Operation Community Shield. Recent collaboration in Dallas was representative of joint operations nationwide. In Dallas, ICE received data from the Dallas Police Department about local violent gang members. ICE conducted further investigation to determine if any were subject to arrest for federal customs or immigration violations. After identifying targets subject to ICE authorities, ICE and Dallas police conducted a joint operation that netted 44 gang members.

First Assistant Chief of the Dallas Police Department David O’Neal Brown said, “Operation Community Shield has had a direct impact on violent crime in the Dallas area. Over the past year, the murder rate in the Dallas metropolitan area decreased roughly twenty percent compared to the year before. This is a successful program that the Dallas Police Department is proud to participate in.”

ICE has also worked with its partners at the federal level. In the recent action, ICE teamed with USCIS to identify 48 MS-13 members who had recently applied for immigration benefits by comparing its list of thousands of gang targets against the USCIS database of immigration benefit applicants. This effort led to the arrest of 4 MS-13 members and the placement of immigration detainers on 8 MS-13 members in custody.

“Operation Community Shield is a prime example of how USCIS and ICE have joined forces to identify and remove those who pose a threat to public safety,” said USCIS Director Emilio Gonzalez. “Just this past year, USCIS identified and referred more than 4,000 cases involving fraud to ICE. This joint anti-fraud and national security effort is a major priority for the Department of Homeland Security.”

ICE has also worked closely with its partners at the ATF and FBI. ICE has been coordinating street gang operations with the ATF’s Violent Crime Impact Team (VCIT) initiative, which operates in 23 cities throughout the country to identify, arrest, and prosecute the most violent criminals in communities. The VCIT is especially focused on the reduction of gun-related violence often perpetrated by violent gangs. ICE has also been coordinating all its gang targets with the FBI and its MS-13 National Gang Task Force prior to arrest.

About Operation Community Shield

Operation Community Shield was launched in February 2005 after a threat assessment by ICE field offices identified MS-13 as one of the largest and most violent street gangs in the country. The assessment found that most of these gang members were foreign-born; in the United States illegally; had prior criminal convictions; and/or were involved in crimes that made them subject to ICE's broad immigration and customs authorities.

ICE kicked off Operation Community Shield with an enforcement action that resulted in the arrest of more than 100 members of MS-13. In the months that followed, ICE agents nationwide joined ranks and continued targeting MS-13 members in their jurisdictions. In May 2005, ICE expanded Operation Community Shield to include all criminal street gangs and prison gangs with foreign-born members.

Since that time, ICE has been targeting all violent gang members nationwide by using its administrative immigration authorities to detain and remove illegal alien gang members from the country and by using its criminal authorities to arrest and prosecute gang members involved in criminal activities.

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