
CABLE Gram
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CABLE Gram Volume 4 Issue 12

20 March 2007 CABLE Gram™

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Take care,

Zhi Hamby-Nye, Editor

Henry Ziegler, Associate Editor

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We search the topics and Websites that you request, so it is important for you to provide feedback. We are in our infancy and the CABLE Gram will be as useful as you help make it. Please let us know the topics and keywords that will assist you in your professional endeavors. Send all comments and suggestions to zhi@cablegram.org – please type CABLE Gram in the subject line.

FEDERAL

1. 'Threat of home grown terrorism growing in US' (Times of India, 15 Mar 2007)

WASHINGTON: A top intelligence official has said the threat of home grown terrorism is growing in the United States and the phenomenon needs to be understood to effectively tackle it. Charles Allen, the Chief Intelligence Officer with the Department of Homeland security, told a Congressional panel on Tuesday that, "We are increasingly facing the threat of homegrown terrorists. The US-UK aviation plot, occurring a year after the subway attacks in the United Kingdom, was a wake-up call to the British in terms of the breadth and depth of Islamic radicalization there". The agencies involved in tracking down terrorism are yet to come up with precise answers on why it is that America has yet to come up with a national assessment of the problem, the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was told.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/yuua>

2. A special Unit to fight "Homegrown Terrorists" (zone-h by Roberto Preatoni, 16 Mar 2007)

The US Homeland Security Department Secretary Michael Chertoff declared Wednesday that they have just created a special unit to fight the so-called "Homegrown terrorists", that is citizens or residents who plan terrorist attack from inside the nation. Even if, as Chertoff said, this kind of extremists are considered just as part of a "small, fringe element within the American Muslim community," they could definitely represent a threat for people and for US political balances, that's why this fight will be taken as a serious challenge to be faced using all the available means. Homeland's new unit will address all forms of extremist activity and it will focus mainly on the threat from radicalized Muslims. The group has recently met with officials in 18 US cities to get a handle on the problem. Specifically, as reported by USA Today, analysts pointed a finger at "Radicalization", a growing phenomenon in needy environments. Radical and extremist feelings could result into the affiliation to violent groups that could "manipulate social situations to create perceptions of victimization" and then provoke police or political responses that can be used as propaganda.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.zone-h.org/content/view/14646/28/>

3. FBI: Foreign extremists sign up to drive school buses (AP, 16 Mar 2007)

WASHINGTON - Members of extremist groups have signed up as school bus drivers in the United States, counterterror officials said Friday, in a cautionary bulletin to police. An FBI spokesman said "parents and children have nothing to fear." Asked about the alert notice, the FBI's Rich Kolko said "there are no threats, no plots and no history leading us to believe there is any reason for concern," although law enforcement agencies around the country were asked to watch out for kids' safety. The bulletin, parts of which were read to The Associated Press, did not say how often foreign extremists have sought to acquire licenses to drive school buses, or where. It was sent Friday as part of what officials said was a routine FBI and Homeland Security Department advisory to local law enforcement. It noted "recent suspicious activity" by foreigners who either drive school buses or are licensed to drive them, according to a counterterror official who read parts of the document to The Associated Press.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/03/16/school.bus.extremists.ap/index.html>

4. Bush broaches U.S. gun smuggling (Republic Mexico City Bureau, 15 Mar 2007)

MERIDA, Mexico - As he traveled through Latin America, President Bush talked about a problem that has long been a taboo subject in his administration: the smuggling of guns from the United States. Mexico and its neighbors say most of the weapons used by drug traffickers are bought easily in the United States, then taken south of the border. The number of such weapons seized in Mexico tripled from 3,214 in 2002 to 10,579 in 2005, the last full year of statistics, according to the Mexican Department of National Defense. Bush mentioned gun-running twice during appearances in Mexico on Tuesday and Wednesday. Last week, he cited gun smuggling as a reason for relaxing immigration rules. "I believe strongly that a comprehensive bill will make it easier to focus on drugs

and guns," Bush told Latin America reporters. "It will mean that the people and assets we have on the border can be focused on precisely that which you're concerned about."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/0315bushmex-guns0315.html>

5. Senate rejects GOP changes to anti-terrorism bill (By Chris Strohm and Winter Casey, National Journal's Technology Daily, 14 Mar 2007)

The Senate on Tuesday defeated two Republican-backed amendments to a homeland security bill, passing the legislation late in the afternoon. The bill aims to implement unfulfilled recommendations of the commission that investigated the 2001 terrorist attacks. Democrats and a handful of Republicans voted to table two amendments from Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla. The first amendment would have caused every provision in the bill to expire in five years. Coburn argued that the so-called sunset provision was necessary in order to ensure congressional review of homeland security policy.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36347&dcn=e_gvet

6. Lawmakers demand details on security grant program (By Chris Strohm, National Journal's Technology Daily, 15 Mar 2007)

Members of the House Homeland Security Committee on Wednesday demanded clarification from the Bush administration regarding exactly how states and cities can use a new \$1 billion grant program to improve their emergency communications capabilities. Not willing to wait, Rep. Nita Lowey, D-N.Y., said she expects language to be inserted into the fiscal 2007 supplemental spending bill for military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq to define how the funds can be spent. The House Appropriations Committee will debate the supplemental Thursday. The Homeland Security and Commerce departments must establish guidelines for grant allocations under the program, which aims to help municipalities buy and deploy communications equipment that can work across jurisdictions. By law, grant obligations must be made by Oct. 1.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36355&dcn=e_gvet

7. Senate bill would transfer agriculture inspectors out of DHS (GovExec.com, 20 Mar 2007)

A bill recently introduced in the Senate would transfer agriculture inspection duties from the Homeland Security Department to the Agriculture Department, where they originally resided. The legislation, sponsored by Sens. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., and Diane Feinstein, D-Calif., would shift the duties for inspections at all U.S. entry points from DHS' Customs and Border Protection bureau to Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. The move would affect about 1,800 CBP agricultural inspectors. One CBP manager who asked to remain anonymous said it was another example of backpedaling due to the realization that DHS was assembled too hastily and has too many disparate parts. Inspections activities moved to DHS upon the department's inception in March 2003.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36398&dcn=e_gvet

8. The Illicit Trade in Wild Animal Meat Could Spark a Public Health Crisis (ABCNews.com, 15 Mar 2007)

In 2003, a large suitcase containing the remains of 26 butchered monkeys was confiscated at Logan Airport in Boston on its way from Ghana. The 300 pounds of raw meat, destined to be served as the main course at a wedding in New Hampshire, was "oozing out of its container," said Tom Healy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Experts estimate that about 500 million wild animals, from cane rats to elephants, have been killed in Central Africa for their meat. In the Congo Basin alone, this "bushmeat" is consumed on the order of 1 to 5 million metric tons, or the equivalent of 9 to 45 billion quarter pounders.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/story?id=2952077&page=1&CMP=OTC-RSSFeeds0312>

9. CDC struggles to ensure spending is helping prepare for bioterrorism (KAIT8, 13 Mar 2007)

WASHINGTON Government health officials say they can't show how five (b) billion dollars spent on preparations for a bioterror attack or flu pandemic has made the country safer. Congress approved the money five years ago in response to the Nine-Eleven attacks and an anthrax scare triggered by tainted letters sent to congressional offices. State health departments now typically get tens of (m) millions to prepare for bioterrorism each year, compared with hundreds of thousands before Nine Eleven. Congress set criteria and charged the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with evaluating how well the dollars have been spent. C-D-C officials say improvement in emergency preparedness is hard to measure.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.kait8.com/Global/story.asp?S=6208252&nav=0jsh>

10. Tuberculosis a global threat that we here must fight, too (Opinion by Dr. Thomas Schlenker, Wisconsin, 17 Mar 2007)

Although the threat of a devastating influenza pandemic is real, the greater global infectious disease threat today, for most of the last 500 years and for the foreseeable future, is tuberculosis. The basic facts about TB are astonishing. Tuberculosis kills 2 million people every year. One third of the world's population is infected. New, mutant strains, resistant to our most powerful antibiotics, called multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB), ravage Asia, Africa, and Eastern Europe and regularly find their way even to Wisconsin. This past year, Public Health Madison-Dane County identified and treated nine individuals with TB, two of whom had MDR-TB. The cost of effectively treating those infected with MDR-TB is hundreds of thousands of dollars per patient. This huge investment of time, effort and resources by the health care system, public health and, sometimes, the police and judicial system, is nevertheless money well spent. It's money well spent in that the alternative to treatment is death for the patient and possible widespread transmission of a potentially lethal disease to the community.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.madison.com/tct/opinion/column/index.php?ntid=124290&ntpid=1>

11. Senate approves union rights for airport screeners (FinancialTimes.com, 14 Mar 2007)

The Senate voted March 13 to give airport security screeners the right to unionize, and all eyes now are on the White House to see if President Bush follows through on his threat to veto the bill. The bill, S 4, passed 60-38. Thirty-six Republican senators have pledged to support a presidential veto, more than enough to sustain a veto. President Bush, senior Homeland Security Department officials and some Senate Republicans say that giving screeners collective bargaining rights would hamstring the Transportation Security Administration. They are concerned that TSA officials would not be as free to move unionized screeners around to keep up with fresh intelligence and emerging threats. The bill allows TSA to bypass negotiations during a declared emergency. Situations such as the massive redeployment of screeners last August when a plot to bomb airlines was discovered would likely qualify for such an emergency.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://federaltimes.com/index.php?S=2618862>

12. A Huge Hole in Airport Security (New York Times, Editorial 16 Mar 2007)

While enormous effort is focused on screening airline passengers for explosives or weapons before they can board a commercial flight, it remains shockingly easy for airport employees to sneak into secure areas and carry dangerous materials onto a plane without detection. That frightening truth was underscored by a flagrant breach of security at the Orlando Airport in Florida last week that was detected only because of an anonymous tip. The breach in this case was a small-bore smuggling operation. A customer service agent for Comair, a subsidiary of Delta, and another Comair employee used their work uniforms and identification badges to gain access to restricted areas, where they stored a duffle bag containing 13 handguns, an assault rifle and a stash of marijuana near the departure gates. One of the men later retrieved the bag and took it aboard a Delta flight to Puerto Rico as carry-on luggage. Based on the tip, authorities pulled one of the men off the plane before it took off and, disturbingly late, caught the other with the duffle bag in San Juan.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/yorb9g>

13. Funding terror (Washington Times, by Rachel Ehrenfeld and John Wood, 15 Mar 2007)

We are on the cusp of a new era of terror financing, that of mobile payments or "m-payments." An m-payment system is being developed by members of the GSM Association to enable migrant workers and the poor who do not have bank accounts to transfer money internationally, efficiently and inexpensively. According to the World Bank, 175 million migrants transferred at least \$230 billion international remittances in 2005. Are Hamas, al Qaeda, Hezbollah and their likes far behind? Without the implementation of a real-time digital anti-money-laundering compliance framework, the m-payment system is well suited to become the "killer application" for money laundering and terror financing. All you need is a stored value card and m-payments enabled mobile phone and carrier.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.washtimes.com/op-ed/20070314-095356-2914r.htm>

14. Britain admits issuing fake passports (UPI, 20 Mar 2007)

The British Home Office admits that each year it has issued some 10,000 fraudulent passports, including nine to a man since convicted of terrorism. Dhiren Barot, who was arrested in 2004, obtained seven passports in his own name and two under aliases, The Evening Standard reported. He obtained the duplicates by claiming he had lost his passport. Barot, a member of al-Qaida, is serving a 40-year prison sentence for planning a "dirty-bomb" attack and attacks with parked cars loaded with gas cylinders. Salaheddine Benyaich, a Moroccan national convicted of involvement in a lethal series of bombings in Casablanca, got two passports by using someone else's identity, the newspaper said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2wbzu7>

15. U.S. interested in Russian antiterrorism experience (RIA Novosti, 19 Mar 2007)

GROZNY - The U.S. State Department intends to study Russia's experience in its counterterrorism efforts used in the country's troubled region of North Caucasus, a military official said Monday. Colonel General Arkady Yedeleev, the chief of the operational headquarters in the North Caucasus, said the U.S. State Department had already filed a request for permission to send a delegation to Russia's North Caucasus republic of Chechnya. "The unique counterterrorism system used in the North Caucasus has shaped our state policy and defined roles for all executive bodies in the prevention of terrorism," he said. "The experience has provoked interest among foreigners."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://en.rian.ru/world/20070319/62219905.html>

STATE AND LOCAL NEWS

16. AZ: Arpaio to use state funds to fight smuggling (The Arizona Republic, 15 Mar 2007)

Maricopa County will access state funding to pursue human-smuggling operations, including undocumented immigrants being smuggled as human cargo. Sheriff Joe Arpaio on Wednesday announced the agreement with the Arizona Department of Public Safety that will help fund 15 deputies devoted to illegal immigration. "I will continue our policies in fighting this problem as we have in Maricopa County," Arpaio said, leaving open the possibility that his squad may venture outside the county boundary, as well. "We will go after the illegal immigration problem." The Legislature and governor last year approved \$10 million that can be accessed by local law enforcement through the state's Gang and Immigration Intelligence Team Enforcement Mission, or GIITEM. Eighty-five percent of the county's costs in the effort will be reimbursed.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/376ydg>

17. CA: Two arrested for posing as police at L.A. airport (Reuters, 17 Mar 2007)

A man and a woman posing as police officers were arrested at Los Angeles International Airport as they tried to board a plane with a gun, a spokeswoman for the airport police

said on Saturday. The two were arrested on Friday after they claimed to be officers with authority to transport a prisoner out of state and the woman told airport security staff that she was carrying a gun and produced paperwork "implying they were authorized to carry firearms onto an aircraft," officer Belinda Nettles said in a statement.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSN1722436320070318>

18. CA: Man jailed for visa fraud ring (UPI, 16 Mar 2007)

A California immigration consultant who was a frequent commentator for Iranian language radio and TV has been jailed for a massive visa fraud scheme. Henry Hossein Haghighi Heguman was sentenced Thursday to two-and-a-half years in federal jail for running an immigration scheme that filed fake work visa applications on behalf of scores of foreigners seeking to come to the United States, the FBI said. Haghighi's sentencing in Los Angeles federal court by U.S. District Judge Ronald Lew followed his guilty pleas last fall to conspiracy, two counts of immigration fraud and two counts of money laundering.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.upi.com/SecurityTerrorism/view.php?StoryID=20070316-041456-6727r>

19. FL: TSA Officers Permanently Stationed At OIA Baggage-Area Doors (Local 6, 20 Mar 2007)

Transportation and Safety Administration officers will be permanently stationed at all employee entry doors of Orlando International Airport's baggage area, Local 6 News has learned. Sources told Problem Solver Mike Holfeld that two officers will be stationed at each of the second floor locations effective immediately. The move is the first step in a cooperative effort between Orlando Airport and the TSA following a controversial gun-running incident involving airport employees earlier this month.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.local6.com/news/11302060/detail.html>

20. FL: Launch pad damage delays military spacecraft (Reuters, 15 Mar 2007)

Damage to a Florida launch pad from a fuel leak during a preflight rocket test will delay next month's flight of a U.S. government missile-warning satellite and possibly other key military spacecraft, the Air Force said on Thursday. Following a test launch in 2004, a Boeing-built Delta 4 Heavy rocket was scheduled for its first satellite-delivery mission on April 1 from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. However, during a dress rehearsal for launch two weeks ago, some of the rocket's intensely cold liquid oxygen fuel leaked out and cracked the metal structure beneath the booster, the Air Force's Space and Missile Systems Center said. The payload, a \$250 million Defense Support Program missile-warning satellite built by Northrop Grumman, had not yet been loaded aboard the booster. It will remain in its processing facility until the rocket is about three weeks away from launch.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSN1517518520070315>

21. FL: OIA, TSA trade blame for unguarded doors (Orlando Sentinel, 14 Mar 2007)

One of the doors allegedly used by two Comair employees to smuggle guns onto a flight last week at Orlando International Airport was left largely unguarded despite a previous law-enforcement investigation that identified unchecked employee entrances as a potential security threat. In the past, officers from the Transportation Security Administration staffed the doors behind the baggage-claim carousels that led to secure areas, but the federal agency eventually reassigned those workers and relied on spot checks at the doors. TSA and airport administrators disagree about who is responsible for the security of employee-access points.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

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

22. IL: State law would force parents to lock up guns (Pantagraph.com, 16 Mar 2007)

SPRINGFIELD - State lawmakers are considering a measure that would force each gun owner to lock up firearms when minors 18 and younger are in the home. The proposal joins a handful of other gun-related measures state lawmakers are considering this spring. The proposed laws would change not only how guns are stored but also what guns are legal, the use of background checks and gun dealer licensing. On Wednesday, the House Executive committee approved the firearm storage measure and sent it to the House floor for further debate. The proposal would toughen a law that already applies to homes with children 14-years-old and younger.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/214qfw>

23. MD: Soldier Accused Of Smuggling Iraqi Machine Guns (WJZ, 14 Mar 2007)

BOWIE, Md. Back in 2004, a Hyattsville warehouse was riddled with 42 bullets, leading to a vandalism investigation in Prince George's County. Now, as Kathryn Brown reports, that act of vandalism has spiraled into an international arms smuggling case, resulting in the arrest of a 26-year-old Army soldier from Maryland. Bowie native Leonard Lockley is facing serious federal charges of illegally possessing, transferring and importing machine guns. In 2003, Lockley was stationed in Iraq, in which time, federal investigators say he illegally bought at least four machine guns from an Iraqi.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://wjz.com/topstories/local_story_073161138.html

24. MI: Mike Rogers' Office Vandalized (WXYZ, 20 Mar 2007)

Congressman Mike Rogers' home is under police guard after his Lansing office was severely vandalized last night. The case is being handled by the FBI and the US Capitol Police, who have requested that the Lansing Police investigate the matter. According to the Congressman's spokesperson, the office was extensively damaged. Two security cameras were destroyed and the building was spray painted. The tapes from the cameras are being reviewed to see if they recorded anything before they were destroyed. The vandals also spread red paint all over the 8th congressional district sign in front of the building, as well as on a sign that says "We Support Our Troops."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/ys7v5s>

25. NE: Nebraska well-prepared for bioterrorism (KHASTV, 18 Mar 2007)

Local hospitals are preparing for the unexpected. Whether it is a natural disaster or a bioterrorism attack, they have a plan of action. The Tri-Cities formed a group called TRIMMERS - the Tri-Cities Medical Response System. TRIMMERS is made up of employees from all three hospitals, health departments, and emergency management teams. In the case of a natural disaster, like a tornado or an ice storm, local hospitals need to be ready. "You have to set plans in place that can cover all hazards the command center how jobs are assigned," said Dale Gibbs of Good Samaritan. Plans that will fit a bio-terrorism attack as well. Good Samaritan's Medical Lab in Kearney can test to determine if a substance is hazardous.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://khastv.com/modules/news/article.php?storyid=8873>

26. TX: Meeting held between law enforcement officers and Muslims (KTEN Local News, 16 Mar 2007)

OKLAHOMA CITY Law officers have met with Muslim leaders in Oklahoma in an effort to improve understanding and limit problems in what both sides say can be a tense relationship. F-B-I agents, police chiefs and officers, mosque leaders and members of the Governor's Ethnic American Advisory Council met privately at the Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism. F-B-I Special Agent in Charge Michael Ward says counterterrorism investigations routinely produce leads involving the Muslim community. He says those leads must be worked aggressively but there also must be a balance to ensure Muslims are treated fairly.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.kten.com/Global/story.asp?S=6237161>

27. VA: Should gun data lists be muzzled? First Amendment rights collided with Second Amendment rights in the recent brouhaha (The Roanoke Times, 18 Mar 2007)

It didn't take long for Sunshine Week to turn stormy. At 9:15 last Sunday morning, just a few hours after The Roanoke Times was dropped on doorsteps and shoved into paper boxes across the region, Scot Shippee fired the first shot in what would become the newspaper's biggest Internet controversy. In an online discussion forum, Shippee blasted the paper for posting on its Web site a database that included the names and addresses of everyone in Virginia licensed to carry a concealed handgun. Shippee wrote that if the newspaper was so committed to public information, it would only be fair for him to publicly list the home address of editorial writer Christian Trejbal. A column by Trejbal that day had urged readers to celebrate Sunshine Week -- a national recognition of the public's right to know -- by using the database to see who in their community was "packing heat."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.roanoke.com/news/roanoke/wb/109163>

28. WY: WMD-CST Team Certified for Wyoming (DoD, 14 Mar 2007)

The Department of Defense notified Congress today that the Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team (WMD-CST) of the Wyoming National Guard is now certified. The 84th WMD-CST of Cheyenne, Wyo., is fully ready to assist civil authorities in responding to a domestic weapon of mass destruction incident and possesses the requisite skills, training and equipment to be proficient in all mission requirements. The team certified today brings the total number of teams certified by DoD to 48. Congress has authorized a total of 55 WMD-CSTs, which is enough to field at least one team in every state, territory and the District of Columbia. The remaining seven teams will be certified by September 2007.

KEY PEOPLE

29. White House Seeking Gonzales Replacements (The Politico, 19 Mar 2007)

Republican officials operating at the behest of the White House have begun seeking a possible successor to Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, whose support among GOP lawmakers on Capitol Hill has collapsed, according to party sources familiar with the discussions. Among the names floated Monday by administration officials are Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff and White House anti-terrorism coordinator Frances Townsend. Former Deputy Attorney General Larry Thompson is a White House prospect. So is former solicitor general Theodore B. Olson, but sources were unsure whether he would want the job. Republican sources also disclosed that it is now a virtual certainty that Deputy Attorney General Paul J. McNulty, whose incomplete and inaccurate congressional testimony about the prosecutors helped precipitate the crisis, will also resign shortly.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0307/3202.html>

30. Bioterrorism? Believe it, expert tells TU students. Denial a big threat in U.S., speaker says (Chronicle-Tribune,.com, 17 Mar 2007)

UPLAND - Most Americans believe Iraq, out of any country, has the largest number of deaths resulting from suicide bombers, according to Gregory Poland, chief of the Defense Health Board, but Americans actually have the highest death toll. "It might surprise you to realize (this)," Poland said during his lecture about suicide bombers and bioterrorism Friday at Taylor University. "In part, (this) is because we really didn't have in our mindset the idea that 9/11 was a suicide bombing mission." Poland, stressing that his lecture expressed only his own opinions, said Muslim extremists perceive the United States as "weak" and "vulnerable," and believe Allah has called them to destroy non-Muslims. "The enemy is not just terrorism, the enemy is not Islam - it is a radical faction," Poland said. "These are not uninformed individuals. This is a smart network." The goal of terrorism, according to Poland, is the emotional consequences - terror and panic - produced by attacks.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/yscmg9>

GANG ACTIVITY

31. FL: Men sentenced to 15 years for role in organized crime (AP, 16 Mar 2007)

A man considered the leader of a large organized crime ring was sentenced Friday to 15 years in prison for his role in criminal racketeering that included multiple murders and arson, federal officials said. Jose Miguel Battle, Jr., 54, also was ordered to forfeit \$642 million in illegal proceeds, according to a statement from the Miami U.S. attorney's office. Battle was convicted of various racketeering charges in July along with two other men. Authorities said they were members of the organized crime ring known as "The Corporation" and spent 40 years in various organized crime conspiracies.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.gainesville.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070316/APN/703164287>

32. IN: After-party violence may have stemmed from gang talk (Eyewitness News, 19 Mar 2007)

Indianapolis - Police are learning more about about why two teenage birthday party-goers ended up dead this weekend. They believe it may all stem from talk over gang affiliation. A teenage girl and her family invited her friends to celebrate her 15th birthday at a West 64th Street community center. That celebration ended with two teenagers dead and five others rushed to the hospital, two of them with gunshot wounds. It all started at a birthday party Saturday night on 64th Street and ended with two teenagers dying on Grandview Drive. Witnesses say it stems from talk about gang loyalty.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.wthr.com/Global/story.asp?S=6248634&nav=menu188_2

33. MD: Photos, letters seen as crucial link in MS-13 trial (Washington Times, 16 Mar 2007)

Federal prosecutors, defense attorneys and translators yesterday began sifting through hundreds of photographs and letters that are expected to link three defendants to the violent MS-13, or Mara Salvatrucha, gang. Establishing a link is crucial for the prosecution of Jose Cruz "Piranha" Diaz, 27, of Lanham, Omar "Duke" Vasquez, 28, and Henry "Home Boy" Zelaya, 20, who are charged with racketeering activities that involved slayings, kidnapping, robbery, obstruction of justice and witness-tampering. If convicted, they could be sentenced to life imprisonment. Most evidence presented on the fourth day of the eight-week trial in Greenbelt yesterday came from a Jan. 9, 2006, raid of a house in the 1200 block of Cronin Drive in Woodbridge, Va.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://washingtontimes.com/metro/20070315-113443-7789r.htm>

34. NC: Deputies get federal grant to combat gangs (Fox Carolina, 19 Mar 2007)

HENDERSONVILLE, N.C. - Did you know that there's a major gang problem in our area? That's what the Henderson County Sheriff says, and that's why he's doing something about it. The sheriff's office is now creating a unit focused on gangs thanks to some federal money. The graffiti on a city wall probably doesn't make much sense to most people, but deputies say it signals a frightening change in Henderson County. Sheriff Rick Davis said, "There are gangs here, there are indeed." Sheriff Rick Davis

received \$133,000 of federal money to create a two man unit that will focus on gang activity. The FBI says some tattoos represent the gang MS-13- one of the most violent gangs in America.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fox21.com/Global/story.asp?S=6240287&nav=2Kpp>

35. TN: Gang graffiti makes threat at Southwind Middle (WREG, 19 Mar 2007)

SHELBY COUNTY, TN - The vandalism caught school officials by surprise Monday morning. Although there have been some reports of gang activity in the neighborhood, officials say this is the first time they've seen signs of it on school property. Deputies spotted the graffiti on the side of Southwind Middle School late Sunday evening. MS 13 is the name of one of the world's most dangerous street gangs. This spray paint tag also makes a specific threat against a person whose name we've decided not to reveal. School officials tell us there is no teacher or staff member there by that name, but they are no less concerned. The Shelby County Sheriff's Office has launched an investigation. Spokesperson, Steve Shuler, says, "We've called in our bureaus: S.W.A.T., Gang, Patrol, and even our reserve deputies to help in this matter."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wreg.com/Global/story.asp?S=6247792>

36. Mexico: Calderón touts fight against crime (Sign on San Diego, 17 Mar 2007)

TIJUANA – Residents of Tijuana and cities across Mexico should brace for a long and difficult battle against organized crime, President Felipe Calderón said yesterday in his first visit to Baja California since taking office last December. Tijuana to a group working on the Valle de Las Palmas development in eastern Tijuana. "Either we act now, or we will lose Mexico," Calderón told a crowd of business leaders and government officials at the Autonomous University of Baja California. "What's at stake is the future of the nation." Ten weeks after launching a major initiative against organized crime in Tijuana, Calderón said "we don't expect short-term results." But he announced partial success, with the capture of three major kidnapping rings and a 20 percent drop in crime in Tijuana. He also used the occasion to announce the seizure Thursday of more than \$200 million in cash inside an upscale Mexico City residence; investigators believe the money is linked to the methamphetamine trade.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/257ebh>

37. Colombian Unravels Government-Paramilitary Ties (Washington Post, 20 Mar 2007)

Sitting in a dreary 7-by-5-foot cell, Rafael Garc?a predicts that he'll soon be murdered. It's a common threat in one of Colombia's toughest prisons, but it's made all the more real for the uncommon prisoner. Garc?a is a star witness for prosecutors, revealing secret links between Colombian officials and right-wing paramilitary groups. His testimony has helped trigger the biggest political scandal faced yet by the government of President ?lvaro Uribe, the Bush administration's closest ally in Latin America and recipient of more than \$4 billion in American aid.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/yw2o36>

38. Russians falling under rule of organised crime (New Zealand Herald, 16 Mar 2007)

MOSCOW - A leaked speech given by Russia's most senior policeman has revealed that almost one tenth of the world's largest country is under the control of organised crime groups who often face little or no official resistance. According to Rashid Nurgaliyev, head of Russia's Interior Ministry, the Russian mafia is well established in Moscow, St Petersburg, the south of the country and Siberia. "This problem poses a threat to the state, society and the economy," he warned, adding that more than 3.8 million crimes were registered last year, up by 8.5 per cent on 2005. He admitted that clear-up rates were less than satisfactory and said criminals were caught in only 46 per cent of cases.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/section/2/story.cfm?c_id=2&objectid=10429035

NARCO TRAFFICKING

39. CA: Calexico - 1400 Pounds of Marijuana Nabbed at Port of Entry (KXO Radio, 20 Mar 2007)

Calexico, California - U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers conducting border security operations at the downtown port of entry arrested two U.S. citizen males who allegedly tried to smuggle almost 1,400 pounds of marijuana into the U.S. on Sunday evening, March 18, officials announced today. CBP officers encountered the 40-year old driver and 56-year old passenger, both residents of San Diego, at about 7:30 p.m., when they entered the border station in a 1990 Chevrolet Bobtail pulling a trailer. The nervous demeanor of both occupants prompted the officer to examine the vehicle further and to utilize a narcotic detector dog team to screen it. After the dog alerted to the trailer, officers escorted the occupants and vehicle into the secondary area for a more in-depth investigation. During the secondary inspection, officers discovered a non-factory wall compartment in the front area of the trailer. Officers subsequently extracted a total of 83 wrapped bundles of marijuana from the trailer valued at about \$700,000.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2k3z7z>

40. FL: Martin County cocaine network busted (TC Palm, 20 Mar 2007) – Officials laid out a case, which took three months of intense investigation, that was a prime example of how to take down a drug operation to have the maximum effect on curbing sales.

STUART — The smugglers were moving 25 to 50 kilograms of cocaine a month from Mexico to Martin County. They made anywhere from \$28,000 to \$35,000 a "key" selling to mid-level distributors, who ensured both powder and rock cocaine fed the habits of users across the Treasure Coast and several states in the Southeastern United States. And they blended quietly into Golden Gate, Port Salerno, Indiantown and other areas until they became "the largest cocaine organization ever targeted within Martin County," Sheriff Robert Crowder announced Monday.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2ml37d>

41. FL: Traffic Stop Nets Nearly \$1M, Cocaine (Local6.com, 19 Mar 2007)

Ocala, Fla. - Central Florida authorities said they recovered nearly \$1 million and more than 140 kilograms of cocaine during a traffic stop on Sunday. Sheriff's deputies said the traffic stop took place in southwest Marion County. One-hundred forty-three kilograms of cocaine were recovered after a K-9 unit alerted deputies. A further investigation uncovered \$800,000, according to deputies.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.local6.com/news/11298853/detail.html>

42. MA: Police nab Hampden trio for pot smuggling (The Republican Newsroom, 14 Mar 2007)

HAMPDEN - Three town residents were arrested early today by federal and local police in connection with an organization which is alleged to have imported more than 40,000 pounds of marijuana from Canada. Hampden residents Russell Morton, 56, of 12 Genevieve Drive, his son Ryan Morton, 26, of Main Street, and his son-in-law John Luszcz, 24, of South Ridge Road were arrested on warrants. Officers of the Hampden Police Department along with agents from the Drug Enforcement agency in Springfield and Albany, N.Y., and the Eastern Hampden Narcotics Task Force arrested the three men.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://blog.masslive.com/breakingnews/2007/03/police_nab_hampden_trio_for_po.html

43. MI: \$750k in cocaine found by MSP; Trooper notified two days prior of his upcoming layoff (The Daily Reporter, 17 Mar 2007)

COLDWATER — Michigan State Police (MSP) Trooper Matt Unterbrink made a record cocaine bust on Thursday on Interstate 69 — nearly 30 pounds — two days after he received a layoff notice. Steven Dent, 37, of Pontiac, is in the Branch County Jail under a \$5 million bond, charged with possession and possession with intent to deliver more than 1,000 grams of cocaine, each life felonies; assault to do great bodily harm, a 10-year felony; resisting arrest, a two-year felony; and possession of a false identification, a misdemeanor.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.thedailyreporter.com/articles/2007/03/17/news/news01.txt>

44. NY: Cocaine won't pay for tolls, dummies! (NY Daily News, 20 Mar 2007)

Maybe they never heard of E-ZPass. Three Long Island men were caught with as much as \$4,000 worth of drugs on the Triborough Bridge on Sunday - all because they couldn't come up with the \$4.50 toll, cops said. The trio was busted by MTA Bridges and Tunnels cops while trying to get from the Bronx to Manhattan Sunday afternoon, police said.

When Officer Joshua Landon asked to see the driver's license so the agency could mail him a bill for the toll, Jesus Cancal, 31, of Syosset, only had an expired learner's permit - with eight prior suspensions, police said. While Landon was arresting Cancal, cops Willie Gamble, Greg Vanicky and Ernesto Reyes approached the 1996 Chrysler to search it. That's when, they said, they spotted passenger George Perez, 29, of Patchogue, frantically

fumbling around in the backseat. When they ordered him out of the car, bags of cocaine allegedly fell from his lap. Stuffed in his pockets were more bags of cocaine, as well as a container of liquid angel dust worth about \$300 on the street, police said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/ytgtaf>

45. Canada: Aboriginal Protester Arrested on Drug Smuggling Charges in US (CD989, 14 Mar 2007)

A Mohawk activist from the States involved in the dispute in Caledonia has been jailed on US drug charges. 41-year-old Michael Laughing, and three others, have been charged with drug smuggling after dawn raids by US federal agents late last week. The raids - where 220 pounds of marihuana was seized - followed a two-year investigation by state police, local narcotics investigators, and border patrol. A border patrol vehicle was stolen during the June 9th incident in Caledonia - where ATF agents said they were in the town as part of an intelligence sharing mission.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.cd989.com/modules/news/article.php?storyid=7996>

46. Canadian drug traffickers go global - Materials for deadly drugs are legally imported by criminals (Vancouver Sun, 17 Mar 2007)

When former Surrey resident Gurdish Singh (Ricky) Toor was arrested in India last August, police there said he was the kingpin of an international drug cartel linked to China and Canada. The 29-year-old remains locked up in Delhi's Tihar jail where B.C. members of the RCMP's drug enforcement unit recently interviewed him and other Canadians allegedly involved in global drug trafficking rings. While investigators here are tight-lipped about what transpired during their meetings, Canadian police do say that drug traffickers are going global in their desire to reap bigger profits from precursor chemicals used for deadly synthetic drugs like crystal meth and ecstasy.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2nkj5v>

47. Mexico's drug cartels returning fire in fierce struggle (McClatchy Newspapers, 20 Mar 2007)

VILLAHERMOSA, Mexico - There was nothing subtle about the message. A black pickup sped up to Tabasco state police headquarters last week and someone inside lobbed a black bag toward the guard post. The bag bounced a few times like a soccer ball and rolled to a stop. Inside was the blindfolded, bloodied head of a man with a mustache. A few hours later, the headless body of a small-time drug dealer and alleged police informant was found across the state line in Chiapas, Mexico's southernmost state. The gruesome message to police to back off was another sign that Mexico's drug cartels, whose influence used to be confined largely to regions near the U.S. border, are fighting an increasingly gruesome war throughout the country to control the trade.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/mld/sanluisobispo/news/world/16941100.htm>

48. Top Drug Official Touts U.S.-Mexican Cooperation for Largest Cash Seizure in History (Reuters, 20 Mar 2007)

The \$205.6 million seized from a luxury Mexico City house was the largest drug cash seizure "the world has ever seen" and resulted from U.S.-Mexico cooperation, the head of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration said Monday. DEA chief Karen Tandy said in statement that U.S anti-drug agents working with Mexican police in an "historic partnership" against methamphetamine producers led to Thursday's seizure. The money found hidden inside walls, suitcases and closets in one of Mexico City's wealthiest neighborhoods came from the profits of methamphetamines sold in the United States, she said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory?id=2965209>

49. Dominican Republic: Hispaniola new conduit for cocaine (AP, 17 Mar 2007)

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic – Hispaniola, the Caribbean island shared by Haiti and the Dominican Republic, has become a growing transshipment point for drugs headed from South America to the United States and Europe, U.S. authorities said during a drug summit here Friday. Heads of state and other top officials from around the region met in the Dominican capital to work out ways to curb the flow of cocaine, heroin and other drugs in and out of the island. Nine percent of the more than 500 tons of cocaine smuggled to the United States from South America now moves through Hispaniola, the U.S. State Department said in a report this month. The number of flights carrying the drugs to Hispaniola -- departing largely from Venezuela -- increased in number by 167 percent in 2006, the report said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/23v8bd>

50. Panama, U.S. make huge cocaine bust in Pacific (Reuters, 19 Mar 2007)

U.S. and Panamanian authorities have seized 19.4 metric tons of cocaine on board a ship in the Pacific, making what is thought to be one of the world's biggest maritime drug busts, Panama said on Monday. U.S. anti-drug officials and Panamanian police found the narcotics hidden in the cargo area of a Panama-registered ship off the Central American nation's coast on the weekend.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory?id=2964657>

51. Panama Police Seize 21 Tons of Cocaine (AP, 19 Mar 2007)

Panamanian police seized a boat off the nation's Pacific coast carrying 21.4 tons of cocaine in one of the biggest maritime cocaine busts anywhere on record, officials said Monday. National police working with agents from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency seized the boat on Sunday near the island of Coiba, said a police official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on the record. Police arrested 12 men on the boat, including Mexicans and Panamanians, and another two suspects in Panama City in connection with the drugs, the official said. The boat, which was sailing under a Panamanian flag, was being transported to Panama City on Monday, he said.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.wtopnews.com/?nid=105&sid=1092498>

52. Serbia Seizes Heroin, Cocaine (UPI, 18 Mar 2007)

Serbian police seized 66 pounds of heroin and cocaine and arrested five people involved in smuggling drugs to Western Europe, reports said Monday. In a weekend sweep in five Serbian cities and towns including Belgrade, police confiscated about 62 pounds of heroin and 4.4 pounds of cocaine, whose total street value was estimated at \$1.3 million, Serbia's RTS radio-television reported. A police statement said the drugs were uncovered in a Belgrade apartment, where it was prepared and packed for transport to Western Europe.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.playfuls.com/news_10_19881-Serbia-Seizes-Heroin-Cocaine.html

53. West Africa becomes a hub for cocaine traffic to Europe (Los Angeles Times, 18 Mar 2007)

MADRID, Spain - A landmark shift in trafficking routes has transformed West Africa into a hub for cocaine smuggling from South America to a booming European market, according to anti-drug officials on three continents. Drug traffickers have established a haven and transit area along the Gulf of Guinea to elude aggressive efforts to seize cocaine headed to Europe. Anti-drug officials fear the new route will worsen lawlessness in African countries already overwhelmed by crime, poverty and instability. Colombian gangsters have brought their swagger to the tiny West African country of Guinea Bissau, setting up elaborate front companies, tooling around in flashy cars and allegedly buying high-level protection. The use of drug "mules" has increased sharply: A single flight arriving in Amsterdam from Morocco in December carried 32 West African passengers who had swallowed cocaine packets or concealed them in their luggage.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2bk9ag>

54. North Korea to Japan: Gangster sentenced to life for drug smuggling (The Yomiuri Shimbun, 15 Mar 2007)

A 68-year-old senior gang member was sentenced to life in prison Wednesday for smuggling hundreds of kilograms of stimulants from North Korea. The Tokyo District Court sentenced Atsunori Fukushima, a senior gangster connected to the Matsuba-kai gang, to pay an initial fine of 10 million yen and seized 961 million yen in profits. Presiding Judge Seigan Kawamoto said: "He [Fukushima] is the ringleader who directs other members to bring stimulants into Japan. He committed the offense without considering that the action would create many drug addicts and should be strongly punished." Two of Fukushima's accomplices, Kiyoharu Shishikura, 51, and Tsunehiko Noto, 64, were sentenced to 11 and 12 years in prison, respectively.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/20070315TDY02010.htm>

CYBERTHREAT & THEFT

55. DHS gives IT head new powers (UPI, 20 Mar 2007)

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff has granted new authorities to his chief information officer over the 22 agencies merged into the new department. To help integrate the information-technology networks of those so-called legacy agencies and ensure the department's \$3 billion annual IT budget is prudently spent, "we need to have a strong information officer who is empowered to make decisions, control spending and ensure consistency," Chertoff told technology executives in Northern Virginia last week. He issued a management directive that required each legacy agency to submit its IT budget to the department's chief information officer, Scott Charbo, who will make recommendations to the secretary for the final departmental budget request.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.upi.com/SecurityTerrorism/view.php?StoryID=20070320-030619-6273r>

56. Chertoff warns of Web of terrorism (Washington Times, 15 Mar 2007)

Radical Islamists are using the Internet to recruit homegrown terrorists in the U.S., Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff told a Senate panel yesterday. "I don't think it's necessary to send radical recruiters into the United States, and I think there's a risk to doing that," Mr. Chertoff told the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee. "But I have no question about the fact that [Osama] bin Laden and [Ayman al-Zawahiri] and others like them quite consciously use the media, including the Internet, as a recruiting tool," Mr. Chertoff said. "In terms of recruiting, I would say that the principal way to enter the U.S. is through the Internet."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://washingtontimes.com/national/20070314-110450-2830r.htm>

57. Public sector faces growing security threat (Symantec, 19 Mar 2007)

Symantec has released the latest edition of its Threat Report for the last six months of 2006, highlighting an increased threat to the government sector. The study showed that a quarter of data breaches involved information held by government or its agencies, with education second with 20 per cent, followed by the health sector with 14 per cent. Most data breaches - 54 per cent - were the result of theft or loss of either a computer or other hardware, such as a USB stick. Symantec's Security Architect for Advanced Threat Research, Ollie Whitehouse, said that 'Activity has moved away from compromising machines for compromising's sake,' into the realm of 'industrial espionage' and 'identity theft'.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/2x8ugc>

58. Web censorship spreading globally (Financial Times, 14 Mar 2007)

Internet censorship is spreading rapidly, being practised by about two dozen countries and applied to a far wider range of online information and applications, according to research by a transatlantic group of academics. The warning comes a week after a Turkish court ordered the blocking of YouTube to silence offensive comments about Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of modern Turkey, marking the most visible attack yet on a website that has been widely adopted around the world. A recent six-month investigation into whether 40 countries use censorship shows the practice is spreading,

with new countries learning from experienced practitioners such as China and benefiting from technological improvements. OpenNet Initiative, a project by Harvard Law School and the universities of Toronto, Cambridge and Oxford, repeatedly tried to call up specific websites from 1,000 international news and other sites in the countries concerned, and a selection of local-language sites.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/1dbb5faa-d268-11db-a7c0-000b5df10621.html>

59. ISPs Sell Clickstreams For \$5 A Month (Seeking Alpha, 13 Mar 2007)

At the Open Data 2007 conference in New York today, David Cancel, the CEO of Compete Inc. revealed that ISPs happily sell clickstream data -- and that it's a big business. They don't sell your name -- just your clicks -- but the clicks are tied to you as a specific user (User 1, User 2, etc.). How much are your clicks worth? About 40 cents a month per user (per customer)... and the Compete CEO estimates that there are 10-12 big buyers of this data. In other words, your ISP is probably making about \$5 a month (\$60 a year) off your clickstreams. Someone points out that this is just as bad as the AOL search thing. "It's much worse!" David says -- his excited eyes indicating that he's a happy customer. Someone else observes that "worse" is in the eye of the beholder: for the ISPs it's awesome.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://internet.seekingalpha.com/article/29449>

60. Hackers Get Bum Rap For The Digital Delinquency Of Corporate America (SPX, 15 Mar 2007)

Seattle WA - If Phil Howard's calculations prove true, by year's end the 2 billionth personal record -- some American's social-security or credit-card number, academic grades or medical history -- will become compromised, and it's corporate America, not rogue hackers, who are primarily to blame. By his reckoning, electronic records in the United States are bleeding at the rate of 6 million a month in 2007, up some 200,000 a month from last year. Howard, an assistant professor of communication at the University of Washington, bases his projections on a review of breached-record incidents as reported in major U.S. news media from 1980 to 2006. The total through last year stood at 1.9 billion -- or roughly nine records per American adult.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://tinyurl.com/322k7m>

61. ACE Survey Shows Data Loss is Top Operational Risk Threat (Business Wire, 16 Mar 2007)

LONDON - One in three global businesses see loss of data as a significant threat and the key issue to address in operational risk management planning, according to the latest global risk briefing report conducted by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) and sponsored by ACE European Group (ACE). The survey of 181 senior executives and risk professionals revealed that loss of data was the most important consideration in terms of operational risk, with over 40% saying their organisation focused more on loss of data than other issues - including systems failure, human error and even natural disasters. The results mark a growing risk management trend towards a greater emphasis on the

operational impact of data loss. Commenting on the report, Gareth Tungatt, Senior Underwriter specialising in IT and Cyber Risk at ACE said: "The survey shows that risk managers clearly understand the value of data and, increasingly, are focusing on its associated losses."

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://insurancenewsnet.com/article.asp?n=1&neID=20070316290.2_76a8001b1b216e7b

TECHNOLOGY

62. Coast Guard Cancels Contract for Vessel (New York Times, 15 Mar 2007)

The Coast Guard said Wednesday that it was canceling a contract with two military contractors to develop a vessel for a wide range of missions in the post-9/11 world and would instead have the Coast Guard's own acquisition branch handle the project. The deal that the Coast Guard pulled out of Wednesday, involving a joint venture of Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman, is to develop a 120- to 160-foot "fast-response cutter," which is to be armed with .50-caliber machine guns, travel at 28 knots or more and be suitable for tasks ranging from patrols of fishing lanes to military operations.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/03/15/us/15coast.html?ref=us>

63. DHS tech chief wants broadband for first responders (GovExec.com, 16 Mar 2007)

The Homeland Security Department's technology goals extend beyond ensuring that first responders' equipment is up to date and compatible, an agency official said Thursday. Jay Cohen, the head of DHS' science and technology directorate, said all first responders should have broadband Internet access so they can get mass broadcasts and warnings from the federal government. "We've got a lot of police departments [and] fire departments that don't even have a computer," Cohen told attendees of a conference in Washington for first responders.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=36378&dcn=e_gvet

64. George Bush fingered as terrorist by US feds ...Well, maybe (The Register, 14 Mar 2007)

A Texas-based software company is offering a free tool allowing web users to check the likelihood of a particular name being flagged up by US government's Transportation Safety Administration (TSA), the body which operates the infamous "No Fly" list. Lists of terrorist names have circulated widely in recent months, and it has also been reported by the Washington Post among others that various US agencies use the Soundex algorithm to assess names. Soundex-based software can be used to search a list of names – for example, an airline passenger list – and throw up possible matches. For example, "Osama" might be read by Soundex to match against "Osama", "Osamu" or "Osman." Thus, if any of those three names appeared on a passenger list – especially in combination with a surname such as "bin Laden" or "Binladen" the chance of the feds taking an interest would be high. You can try out the service at

<http://nofly.s3.com/index.jsp>

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2007/03/14/no_fly_website_jollies/

65. Dogs Used to Tackle Movie, Music Piracy (AP, 13 Mar 2007) - Low Tech? High Tech? Certainly cost effective!

SEPANG, Malaysia - Lucky and Flo, Malaysia's latest weapons in tackling rampant music and movie piracy, started work at the country's biggest international airport Tuesday, sniffing out shipments for fake optical discs. The two black Labradors are on loan for a month from the Motion Picture Association of America, which says its members—including top Hollywood studios Paramount Pictures, Warner Bros, 20th Century Fox and Universal—lost \$1.2 billion to Asia-Pacific movie pirates in 2006. It is the first time dogs have been used by authorities anywhere around the world to detect contraband discs, said Mike Ellis, regional director for the MPAA. It took around nine months and \$17,000 to train the dogs to detect polycarbonates, chemicals used in the disc manufacturing process, he added.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

http://www.breitbart.com/article.php?id=D8NRGHFO0&show_article=1

66. Fingerprint flash drive - spy storage (Shiny Shiny, 8 Mar 2007)

Like all of the best spy gadgets, this one comes disguised as something innocuous. It *looks* just like an ordinary - and rather boring - USB stick, and actually, it *is* a USB stick. Unlike your usual USB, though, the material you store on this one is for your eyes only, as the built-in fingerprint reader means that only you will be able to access it. Or, of course, someone who's cut your finger off and is using it.

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.shinyshiny.tv/2007/03/fingerprint fla.html>

RESOURCES

67. "The Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS)," Congressional Research Service Report updated January 25, 2007

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/natsec/RL33388.pdf>

68. "Data Security Breaches: Context and Incident Summaries," Congressional Research Service Report updated January 29, 2007

CABLE Gram Suggested URL:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL33199.pdf>

FULL REPORTS

69. Document Denied: DHS Boosts Cooperation With Russian Intel (Contributed by Steven Aftergood, Federation of American Scientists, www.fas.org)

Two new U.S. Secret Service agents are to be stationed in Moscow this year, in accordance with a secret memorandum of understanding between the Department of

Homeland Security and Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB), that country's foreign intelligence agency.

The four-page memorandum of understanding was signed in November 2006 by DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff and the FSB Director.

In response to a Freedom of Information Act request from the Federation of American Scientists, DHS denied the release of any portion of the document, citing FOIA exemption (7)(E) which protects law enforcement information.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/news/2007/01/dhs012607.pdf>

The denial is being appealed. DHS officials have independently disclosed some of the contents of the memorandum.

Information about the document was first reported last December by Russia's Tass News Agency. The DHS-FSB memorandum "envisages the exchange of information between the two sides on border control and related matters," according to a Tass report.

DHS Acting Assistant Secretary Paul Rosenzweig described the agreement in a December 20, 2006 briefing.

"One of the products of [the new memorandum] is that either already or within the new year there will be two new Secret Service agents stationed in Moscow. [The Secret Service is now a DHS component -- SN] That's a return to a post that has been vacant for quite some time which we're very pleased about. There remain several other DHS people there already."

"With Russia in particular, there's been some very strong positive movement in the past six months, as reflected by the signing of this agreement," Mr. Rosenzweig said.

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